

the IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

<http://iwarrior.uwaterloo.ca/>

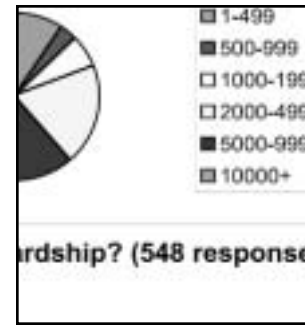
volume 24 issue 5 | 28 March 2003



Art Contest
Results P. 18



Chemando Prank
P.5



Debt-Load Survey
Results P. 4

Up Close and Personal with the New Exec

Janna Hickson
4B Systems

The members of the new engineering society executive were announced at TalEng. For the next 16 months, your executive will be:

Josh Levitz – President. *acclaimed
Emma Saask – VP Education.
Jeff Alfonsi – VP External. *acclaimed
Grant Holohan – VP Finance
Matt Strickland – VP Internal
Erin Young – WEEF Director. *acclaimed

In the last issue of the Iron Warrior, you heard about their history and plans for the society. Now we look at their views on the race and their opinions on some of the more difficult issues that engineering society executives have faced in the past such as...

...Porn in POETS
...Opinion Posters
...Strikeable Fees
...IRS Antics

(Please note that the candidates had short notice for these questions and therefore not all of their responses could be included due to publishing deadlines.)

The Race

At TalEng, the CRO announced that each of the races were very close. The Iron Warrior asked each candidate that won a race what they thought made the difference for them.

[ES]. "I think that I had the advantage of recognition. I ran for Senate earlier this term, which provided a fair bit of exposure. I'd like to think that my platform helped too though."

[MS] "I'm really not sure about what would have given me an edge. I think all the candidates could do a wicked job at this position. I guess, maybe I've been involved in more activities than the other candidates and thus am more seen?"

Exactly half of the executive positions were acclaimed. The Iron Warrior asked the acclaimed candidates why they thought that they were the only ones to run for their position.

Continued on page 12. See Your Exec on Issues that Matter



Don't believe that the Engineering Prank is alive and kicking? Recently elected EngSoc President Josh Levitz was left stripped, dyed purple, duct taped and

chained to a cement block early Wednesday morning. No one has yet stepped forward to take credit.

Fiasco: The Election Campaign Results

Jeff Henry
3N Computer

Elections are always a difficult thing to run in such a way to avoid complaints, perceptions of impropriety, and general chaos – at least to people who tend to care about these sorts of things. If your particular country or district tends to run your elections in a way contrary to what some people would expect in a "democracy" the UN sends in observers with blue hats and army camouflage to make sure the natives have learned the fine art of counting and the singular relationship between citizen and ballot.

This is something that often takes years for the natives of these undemocratic "backwards" countries to accept, this monitoring, since they've gotten used to either unopposed rule ("acclamation") or gun-to-the-head votes of confidence

("Saddamination").

Such was the case in our beloved Engineering Society just a few short weeks ago.

Well, almost the case. After all, usually dictatorships don't have much trouble finding people to fill all of the power-wielding positions – especially of the "Internal Affairs" nature. But then the Engineering Society is not your usual dictatorship.

When the council convened on 12 March 2003 they came set to raise their hands for five individuals into the upper echelons of the Society – indeed they were ready to rubber stamp a new executive.

Alas when only four individuals appeared before them an air of confusion could be seen from the seats of the retiring executive.

"Did not your classes know about the 'election,?'?" uttered the President known only as "Clegg."

A thunderous response of "What election?" echoed throughout the council chamber.

And so it was decreed that a new election period would commence in the hope that the illusion of competition could be restored to all of the various classes in the Society. Not to mention the hope that some party member would take hold, with an iron fist, the portfolio of internal affairs.

And while it was not known here in the nation's capital why the Chief Returning Officer failed to return for the second election, it was known that Rosie of the order of the Iron Ring was named the new Chief.

Her voice was loud and clear to reach out

to all in the Society resulting in a modern record of four candidates for the powerful internal position. And while two fought over the finances and education, there remained acclamation to rubber stamp an external member, and promote the previous Vice-President of Internal Affairs into the seat of "Clegg."

What? There was no dictatorship?

The original election was cancelled due to a lack of sufficient advertising thus causing there to be no candidate for VP Internal and only one candidate for each of the remaining four executive and one endowment director positions.

The next round, which was managed by CRO Rosie Pareja, resulted in four candidates for VPI, and two for each of VPF and VPED.

"Never offend people with style when you can offend them with substance." – Sam Brown

Letter from the Editor

Jonathan Ng

4B Computer

Editor-in-Chief



There is a time where we must all say goodbye. Saying goodbye is not an easy thing to do, because it requires letting go of things I held dear. Objects and routines that were familiar to me the past few years will be replaced with other objects and routines that will not be as familiar. Not even five years of traveling back and forth between jobs truly prepared me for it, because at least in the five years that I was here, I knew that I would come back eventually.

I feel that this paper has contributed to my growth in ways that I possibly couldn't get from anywhere else. It is an enormous responsibility, one that I've had to shoulder for an entire term. As a result, it boosted my character, my decision-making abilities, and my leadership skills. And despite a few trip-ups, I'm content with the results of the paper this term. It's been an immense experience.

Now for the writings of the week:

1) Growing Pains

If you are in Electrical and Computer Engineering, there are several articles in this issue that concern the concerns of the department and the students and what could be done. The growth and turnover rate of the department has led to an environment where people aren't as experienced as they could be.

2) Money and Marks and

Happiness

There's an article on Yahoo (http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=570&e=15&u=/nm/20030315/sc_nm/health_depression_dc) that indicates that children that think money, fame and beauty is the equivalent to happiness are more likely to be depressed. This connects back with Sandra's article last issue about how marks will not make you happy. Indeed, obsession over how marks make you happy isn't going to make you happy, because then you start being reliant on that single concept (whether it is marks, money, fame or beauty) to make you happy. And when you don't perform as well as you think you should, you start wondering whether there's something wrong with you, even if there isn't. So beware of falling into the money/fame/beauty/marks trap.

3) Diversity of Culture

I wanted to note the unusually large amount of diversity that our school breeds, even in a discipline as trying as engineering is. We can see it with the arts contest, and with the engineering play, but many people do things we don't normally see unless we look closely. Luke Andrews performs at many venues. Justin Liu is part of the performance of the Godspell musical. I like to think that most of us are very talented in different ways, and to be able to do so many different things makes us proud, and defeats the image that we are just people who stare at our shoes all day.

4) Staff Credits

I'd like to thank all my staff for a

wonderful term, and they've been great people to work with, even though they sometimes drive me insane. Each and every one of them has put in a lot of effort into making this happen, and I honestly say I couldn't have done it without them. So give yourselves a pat on the back, staff!

5) Farewell, farewell

And now I must say goodbye. It's been a great five years here in the University of Waterloo, and I have had a lot of memories, friends, and experiences here. I will miss you guys!

Questions? Comments?

We welcome letters and feedback from all our readers. Please email us at:

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The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

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The Iron Warrior encourages submissions from students, faculty and members of the university community. Submissions should reflect the concerns and intellectual standards of the university in general. The author's name and phone number should be included. All submissions, unless otherwise stated, become the property of The Iron Warrior, which reserves the right to refuse publication of material which it deems unsuitable. The Iron Warrior also reserves the right to edit grammar, spelling and text that do not meet university standards. Authors will be notified of any major changes that may be required.

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the iron warrior magazine

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Written by...

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If you want to contribute ANYTHING AT ALL,

drop by our office (opposite the Orifice) or e-mail us at iwarrior@engmail

Letter to FedS President

Madam President,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the democratic process available to students here at University of Waterloo through FEDS. I do have to say this was an eye opener. With that in mind, the Council meeting that took place on Sunday, March 14 2003, has forced me to take the following action.

Please accept my resignation as the Councillor for Engineering. I no longer wish to participate in a body (ie. Student Council) that in my opinion has countless times missed the opportunity to do something for the constituents it is supposed to serve, with regards to the never-ending issue of strikable incidental fees. I am greatly bothered by the fact that more time is spent in the bureaucratic process of making decisions, than doing something for our constituents.

A piece of advice from a future engineer: Multi-million dollar projects are started with a handshake, yet we failed on countless occasions to implement something for students to give them back a few of their hard earned dollars. Things (ie. details and legalities) would work themselves out

over time. We need to get things started. My attempt to offer a solution proved to be futile because the bigger concern was placed on bureaucracy instead of the cause of giving students their money back.

Do not get me wrong, I understand the legal issues involved in all the decisions Council takes, but if we keep bickering about an amendment to the motion to amend, a question put forth on an amendment of the original motion, nothing will ever get done. I am afraid that students have a negative opinion of FEDS, and if these practices continue, I strongly believe this opinion might further deteriorate.

In closing, I have to say I've enjoyed the challenge of working on the Council but sadly I have to admit it turned out to be a waste of my time. I wish all the best of luck to the outgoing Executive and Councillors, as well as the newcomers and hope they will be able to do something for the students, where we, the present Council miserably failed.

Sincerely,

Jasmin Mulaosmanovic
4B Electrical Engineering

Life After Graduation

Sandra Lê

4B Systems



All right, in a few days it will really be the end. In a few days, I will reach the goal I have been aiming for so many years, I will become an engineer. And then what? I don't really know. Like many others, I am now facing the graduation challenge: what will I do after graduation? Not considering the option of watching TV at home because I would rapidly get sick of it, nor travelling around the world because my credit line is already very loaded after 4th year at UW, there are two obvious options: I could pursue further studies with a Masters degree, or dig into the work force and be employed, hopefully as an engineer (but as I am a Systems student, who knows what I could end up doing?)

I have been attending school for the last 17 years of my life. I guess another 2 or 3 years added to this wouldn't make a big difference, so why not continue carrying a

school bag, hoping to gather a little bit of the wisdom professors will to share with me. After all, at the end of this degree, I don't really feel competent (or specialized) enough to be able to sell myself as an engineer. In fact, I am somewhat afraid of the responsibility that I would have to assume working as an engineer in an engineering job. My iron ring is there to remind me of my duties as an engineer, but am I good enough yet to perform as such?

In this case, doing a Masters degree really seems the solution to my worries: I can further specialize my knowledge and practice, and I can keep this "student status" in which I am so comfortable. Many of my "upper year" friends are currently doing a Masters at Waterloo or elsewhere, and they seem quite happy in what they do. It cannot be as painful and frustrating as the bachelor that I am just completing, because this time I get to study what I am really interested in. This sounds like a very good idea, I think I'll do the Masters.

Continued on page 5. See I'll do the Masters

Do you want to save changes to Iraq?

Jeff Henry

3N Computer



By the time this article makes it into print, the United States and Britain hope that the war they say Saddam brought on himself has come to an end. They are, of course, not isolated in that position for, faced with the inevitability of war, none of their opponents are opposed to swift victory. The legality of the action itself will be left to legal scholars the world over and the world wants nothing better than to assist a speedy and fruitful reconstruction effort.

And while Gulf War II (GWII) is/was not a war in the trenches, the diplomatic forays in the months leading up to it most certainly were. The problem with sound cogent arguments is simply that they can both be right and still be in conflict. No arguments were as well formed and as ideologically opposed as Prime Minister Blair's speech to open the GWII motion debate on 18 March and resigning House of Commons leader Robin Cook's statement afterwards.

Both sides make the argument for and against conflict without misconstruing the other sides position in the same way as so many arguments had. Blair asserting that no party on the other side is an appeaser and Cook asserting that there is no contradiction with supporting the troops and being against armed conflict nor that it was not a contradiction to be against force and Saddam. Each side was able to make their positions and reasons clear without calling the other a pacifist and Saddam supporter or a pawn of American foreign policy under the Bush doctrine.

Blair laid out a timeline of failed final full disclosures, missed ultimatums, and WMD construction throughout the presence of inspectors as a basis for not providing for an open-ended resolution. Further he used history and tied in the future threats posed by other regimes, citing North Korea in particular, as a reason for the UN to have an ultimatum and show it's resolutions have teeth.

Without directly countering the argument that the lack of a second resolution weakens the United Nations, Cook pointed to the lack of multilateral support as a similar weakening of the body. That Kosovo, a notable recent exception where multilateral NATO force was used without UN approval, included the EU partners noticeably absent from the current situation sufficiently differentiates the current unsanctioned action from the previous action.

What all of that at the very least shows is an active and healthy debate – debate in the true and respectful sense of the word – existing in the United Kingdom. The same cannot be said in the more and more Orwellian United States.

War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength

To wear a "Give Peace A Chance" shirt in a public mall can lead to a year in jail – especially if, being a lawyer, you know your rights too well and refuse to remove the shirt when requested to by police.

Freedom of information is not what it used to be as libraries have been requested to destroy reports and publications as "We have to get away from the ethos that knowledge is good".

And don't even think of asking for US stamps without American flags on them – especially if the government would find anything remotely suspicious in a background check.

I know I'm just waiting for the Victory Gin to wash down my Freedom Fries so lets get this war over with already!

Seriously though

The most difficult part through all of this build up since 11 September is that the United States government runs almost unopposed in the alleged land of freedom. Of course, in a land built on life, liberty, and happiness a simple interpretation that better government control over it's population can bring happiness.

While t-shirts and stamps as cause for the cops to be called in is not quite in the neighborhood of the thought police, surely this kind of vigilance is on the right path to get there.

And while removing supposed sensitive information from public libraries was not performed by the Ministry of Truth, surely when knowledge is no longer a good thing the Ministry is not far behind. After all, can we truly trust the scientists to censor their research without government orders?

But infringement is not an infection in the United States alone, although the relation is clear. Blair spoke of the support of the soon-to-be members of the EU who supported the current/past action. But John Horvath would likely differ. Hungary's parliament through the opposition to the government opposed the US' request to use its airspace yet had its airspace infringed upon anyways. In response to criticism the country's defense minister simply said "opposition parties can moni-

tor governments, but not NATO" and let the issue fall aside. The violation was for movement of supplies into Turkey – a country that, at the time of writing, was considering the "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again" strategy on a resolution to allow a Northern front. Time will have told whether Horvath's prediction that the US will move regardless of Turkey's parliament's decision on the matter.

In the end, though, even Winston Smith came to love Big Brother so I'm sure I along with many in the EU will someday too after this weakness of public debate is removed and we am allowed to fully embrace the strength that is ignorance.

Do you want to save changes to Iraq?

And after writing this piece in a file called Iraq.doc I indeed got a dialog box to that sub-heading's effect. I wonder if Big Brother and his familial coalition will wish for the same opportunity when all is said and done.

Related Material:

<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page3294.asp>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/03/18/sprj.irq.cook.speech/index.html>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2003/US/Northeast/03/04/iraq.usa.shirt.reut/index.html>

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-111801inform.story>

<http://www.progressive.org/webex/wxmc120801.html>

<http://www.heise.de/tp/english/inhalt/co/14395/1.html>

Your Campus

Debt-Load Survey Results

Results for this year's debt-load survey provided by the Engineering Dean's Office. Questions can be directed to

Karen Dubois at kldubois@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

1 Term Total

Total Responses	560	Number of surveys sent	2144	Response %	26%
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2 Does your family support you financially? (552 responses)

Yes	51%
No	49%

3 Average Cost of Living for a 4 month School Term (548 responses)

\$7,678

4 Average Cost of Living for a 4 month Work Term (467 responses)

\$3,599

5 Have you applied for local aid or other bursaries to pay for school? (551 responses)

Yes	37%
No	48%
Not Yet	16%

6 Have you applied for OSAP? (554 responses)

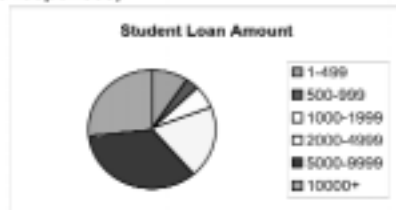
Yes & Received	23%
Yes & Denied	27%
No	50%

7 Do you have a loan for academic purposes? (554 responses)

Yes	35%
No	50%
Not Yet	15%

7a How much is the student loan? (265 responses)

1-499	9%
500-999	3%
1000-1999	8%
2000-4999	20%
5000-9999	34%
10000+	27%

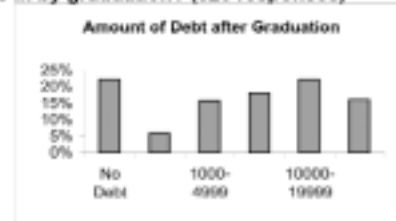


8 Has the differential tuition increases caused you hardship? (548 responses)

Yes	54%
No	16%
Not Yet	30%

9 How much debt do you expect to be in by graduation? (526 responses)

No Debt	22%
<999	6%
1000-4999	16%
5000-9999	18%
10000-19999	22%
20000+	16%



10 Do you live at home while at school? (555 responses)

Usually	6%
Used to	1%
No	93%

11 Have you lived at home while on work terms? (520 responses)

Always	18%
Sometimes	45%
Never	36%

12 Average of the weekly salary while on work term (426 responses)

\$550

International Beverages

On Thursday, March 20th, POETS was host to an international beverage appreciation event. Intended to draw a more diverse cross section of students than other EngSoc events, the celebration of multi-culturalism was a great success.

Those in attendance were also given the opportunity to watch Jeff Wentworth's

video on life in Japan and the 3B Mech class's "Jackass" parody.

All present were appreciative of the organizers.



Enjoying an international beverage and POETS new couches



Sandra Le, one of the chief organizers

The Comp Eng Story

Jay Liu

3A Computer



high school students. 38% would choose comp eng again if they were given a choice. 28% are satisfied with the quality of the program. 48% think the department is unsupportive to students.

Others complain about the amount of useless work in projects and labs (69%), and assignments (45%), which are taking up significant amount of time in a student's life. To compensate for this disequilibrium of time share, 84% of all 3A comp eng students profess to not being involved in EngSoc activities at all.

There are two ways to look at everything. One could argue that still a majority of students would recommend the program to high school prospects, and that a majority (albeit a very slim one) finds department supportive. But that's just a vain attempt to cloud the bigger picture, which is that people are let down by the quality of the pro-

gram UW has offered us. The world of hype that we were supposedly living in back in our frosh year has been replaced into a domain of disdain.

Pity, really, as 56% find the materials we learn being of no use, and 43% of us finding engineering less and less enticing.

The participants in this survey are not a couple of enthusiastic class reps trying to stir up emotions at a department meeting. There is a clear majority of people who want to have their education experience vastly improved. This is a cry for help. Conclusions like "Students do not feel that the department is supportive of their individual learning needs" must trigger a fire alarm somewhere in our hub in DC.

There is also a grave concern that as students are significantly overworked, and as they experience - as the survey discovered - various symptoms of psychological disorders, they not only fail to learn the mate-

rials that they are taught, but also miss out on the unique social experience that an university aims to offer. There is no time to hang out with friends and/or significant others, and no time to explore engineering applications, such as getting involved with WARG, Midnight Sun, and IW. As they, hopefully with pride, attend their one last university-organized gathering at graduation two years down the road, they will look back at all the valuable experiences that they've missed because they spent one too many hour trying to figure out the operation of the darn dip switches.

I hope that our department will give this survey the full merit that it deserves, and effect changes as soon as possible.

The survey questions, results, and analysis can be found at <http://www.ece.uwaterloo.ca/~a2asaria/ecesurvey/>.

A 3A computer engineer, Ali Asaria, recently polled the two 3AQ sections on the workload of the computer engineering program. The results, published recently on his website, communicate a worrying state of the program. Although none of the numbers could be regarded as surprising, they present the program as one that badly needs repair.

Preliminary results indicate that nearly everyone wishes to have more time for entertainment and for family and friends. That is almost a given. However, some of the statistics are indicators of a truly disgruntled group of future engineers:

43% would not recommend comp eng to

It Feels Good to Go Chemando

Christine McCullough
2A Chemical

As many of you have heard, or may have seen, the 2A Electrical class decided to wallpaper DWE 2517, the home of the 2A Chemical class, last week with hundreds of photocopies of their class logo. Well, for those of you who feel that there is no spirit in engineering, I give you the "Chemandos".

While the 2A Systems class has been quite out there, getting seen, doing their thing, the Chemandos have been lurking in the shadows, not wearing any underwear, waiting for the perfect moment to strike.

Tuesday March 19th at 12:00am happened to be that perfect moment. So at that moment twenty highly skilled 2A Chemical engineering students took to MC 1085 with the mind set of "if you've got it, flaunt it". And what does chemical engineering have that electrical engineering does not, you may ask? In one word, women. That's right, the Chemandos felt no shame in rubbing the faces of "La Resistance" in the bounty that is 2A Chemical engineering...or maybe the Elecs just wished they rubbed their faces in it...



"if you've got it, flaunt it"

Wine, Cheese and A Lot to Think About

Christine McCullough
2B Chemical

On Thursday March 13th, Women in Engineering held a wine and cheese reception at the Davis Centre Fishbowl. Now I, like many of you, I am sure, have avoided the Women in Engineering events in the past fearing an evening of feminist propaganda and angry man bashing leading to the eventual burning of our bras. But, due to the gentle yet persistent pressure of the two directors working with WIE this term, Keely Mundle and Mary Thomson, I gave in and agreed to go. What I found was much different than I had expected.

First of all, it wasn't a "feminist" type event at all. There was no angry discussion about the "glass ceiling" or getting paid less than a man for doing the same job. Rather it was a quiet gathering of engineering students from all departments, four professors and an alumna. While I am sure that all of the ladies present have experienced some sort of sexism at one point or another, I got the sense that it was not a major issue for them. Even if some of them do experience sexism every day, it seemed to me that they would rather just do their work to the best of their abilities and prove the naysayers wrong rather than organizing a topless march in protest. It was a very distinguished, very classy group of women.

But the biggest surprise was the presence of MEN in engineering in the fishbowl. It is true; men are more than welcome to

attend these events. And this particular evening had little if anything to do with being women in engineering; anyone man or woman would have profited from this discussion.

So as we settled into the big comfy chairs with our different varieties of cheese, crackers, fruit and of course wine, the discussion began. Trish Stadnyk who is currently working on a masters in civil engineering, under the supervision of Dr. Nicolas Kouwen, was our featured speaker. Having recently gone through the process of applying to graduate school at the University of Waterloo, she was the perfect person to guide the round table about the whos, whats, whens, wheres, whys and hows regarding pursuing a masters degree. Also on hand were Dr. Carol Hull from electrical and computer engineering, Dr. Carolyn Hansson and Dr. Elizabeth Weckman from mechanical engineering, Dr. Christine Moresoli from chemical engineering and a UW alumna Martha Foulds. These accomplished women added a lot to the discussion, offering the perspective of the professor who wants to take on a grad student. Though grades were discussed and do play an important part in being accepted into graduate studies, I felt the emphasis was on the relationship between you and your perspective supervising professor. All of the women agreed that finding the right fit with your supervisor is important; if you are an independent worker, then you need a supervisor who won't be looking over your shoulder all the time; if you want a little more guidance in your work then you need a supervisor who is available to work with you. Scholarships can be a big asset

when looking at doing a masters degree, and it might be easier to find a spot if you come with your own scholarship i.e. National Science and Engineering Research Council Scholarships. The thing that sticks with me the most though was the general words of encouragement from the professors. I always felt that being in 2A, I would just look silly asking about grad school, but all of the professors encouraged starting early; getting to know your faculty, applying for scholarships, applying for undergraduate research assistant positions, doing whatever you can to make yourself look more appealing to the

professor of your choice come fourth year.

As I walked away from the evening, not only was I left with a head full of information, but also a sense that there is a way to be a woman in a male-dominated field, be different, yet equal and do it all without having to be an activist. These women were both supportive of the other women around them and welcoming to the brave men who choose to join us. A very nice balance.



Erin Young and Mary Thomson sampling the wares

I'll do the Masters

...continued from Page 3.

But what about money and stating a "real" life? I am almost 25 years old and I have already spent almost a third of my whole life (I can expect to live about until 78 according to Stats. Canada) warming up the chairs at school. I think this is quite enough and I should very soon start working. No more moving around every 4 months with coop and never knowing more than 2 months in advance where I will be deported for the next work term. It's time for me to settle down a little, start having a normal life, and especially pay back all this money that I owe the bank. And then, start thinking about a couple and

a family. Many classmates and friends are already engaged and/or married, I take it as a sign that maybe I should hurry a little. In fact, if I want to retire around 60 to enjoy a sweet elderly time with my grandchildren, it means that I only have 35 years left to become someone, make money, find someone and raise a family.

In a few days, I will be a graduated engineer. To be able to request the P. Eng. title, I need at least another 3 years of work experience. I can only get this experience while working as an engineer, and not at school working on a thesis project. This argument and the desire to reimburse my student debts reinforce my will to go work

after graduation. But I still carry the fear of not being competent enough and I think I should specialize a bit more before I put myself in the work force.

Of course, in the current economical situation it is difficult to find jobs in high tech when there are so many ex-Nortel or Cisco engineers competing for jobs. More people are therefore inclined to do a Masters, to specialize, be more qualified and also gain a bit of time, hoping that the market will look better in a few years.

So what will I do after graduation? I still don't know. For a few months, I will work as a pseudo-coop with my last employer,

while waiting for my application for a Masters to be accepted. I feel lucky to have such plans, even though many variables are still undefined. To all the graduating engineers who don't know yet what they are up to after exams, I wish good luck and much success for finding what will make you happiest after university. To all the ones who know what they want to do but are still unsure whether or not they are getting it, I also wish you also a lot of luck and success in getting what you want. To all my fellow engineers, I wish a lot of happiness in the near and far future!

Point vs. Counterpoint

POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

Does the U.N. have any real influence in the international community?

Joseph Fung
3N Computer

Despite the fact that a majority of United Nations members disagreed with their proposed course of action, the United States pursued their itinerary and declared war on Iraq. In the light of this and other recent events it can easily be argued the U.N. no longer has any power. Some suggest that had the organization any power whatsoever, the US's unilateral actions would have been avoided. What these same people forget, is the reason behind the formation of the U.N., and what power truly is. If one pauses for a brief moment to reflect on things, it becomes apparent that not only does the U.N. have power, but that it has never been stronger.

Earlier this month the former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Robert Muller, was in San Francisco being honored for his service to world peace both through his work with the U.N. and through his teachings and writings. Now the Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Peace in Costa Rica, he stunned many members of the audience by his observations and interpretations of today's state of affairs.

"I'm so honoured to be here," he said. "I'm so honoured to be alive at such a miraculous time in history. I'm so moved by what's going on in our world today."

Considering recent events, and considering the turmoil depicted in today's news sources, such a perspective may be shocking – unless one also considers the fact that the initiation of this war was anything but a snap decision.

"Never before in the history of the world has there been a global, visible, public, viable, open dialogue and conversation about the very legitimacy of war," Dr. Muller went on to say.

The whole world is in now having this critical and historic dialogue--listening to all kinds of points of view and positions about going to war or not going to war. In a huge global public conversation the world is asking-"Is war legitimate? Is it illegitimate? Is there enough evidence to warrant an attack? Is there not enough evidence to warrant an attack? What will be

the consequences? The costs? What will happen after a war? How will this set off other conflicts? What might be peaceful alternatives? What kind of negotiations are we not thinking of? What are the real intentions for declaring war?"

Some may criticize me for basing so much of my argument on the words of a single man, but he has said, much more clearly that I possibly could, that which all of us should understand.

The United Nations was formed in 1945 for this exact purpose. Although it has taken over 50 years of great effort to fulfil that purpose, what the U.N. has become in these last months is the principle forum for the world's effort to wage peace rather than war.

As Dr. Muller stated in his March 19th address, "Now there are two superpowers: the U.S. and the merging voices of the people of the world." This observation is, perhaps, the greatest testament to the power of the U.N.

Although these discussions did not prevent the United States from proceeding with war in Iraq, the United Nations succeeded in engaging the U.S. in conversation and giving other countries a place to voice their concerns.

The power in the U.N. lies in its ability to help the world's voices coalesce into something much greater. The power of the U.N. lies in its ability to help the world "wage peace" – another of Dr. Muller's coined terms. "This is what waging peace looks like - it is not always clear and easy. It is difficult, hard work."

Regardless of the outcome in Iraq, and regardless of the outcome of the U.N. debates that so recently collapsed, history will recognize this as a time when the U.N. was finally able to realize its function and legitimize the concerns of a global community.

No, the U.N. was not able to stop the U.S. in their pursuit of war, but it is not always necessary to win; it is only necessary to make progress. One must realize the progress made by the U.N. and the power such progress represents can not be mistaken for anything short of a miracle.

It's What Outside that Counts

Andrew Lin
3B Chemical

Being yourself is often the wrong thing to do. The reason behind this is that people usually don't observe what's "on the inside," unless you take great pains to inform them, or hint excessively. People act based on what they observe (hence, actions speak louder than words), not what you expect them to know. Sadly, some of

the most "successful" people in this world are the most selfish liars. These people say only what they want other people to hear, to further their own agendas.

Take the Spiderman movie as an example. Norman Osborne's dying words are: "Don't tell Harry." In a final fatherly act, the doomed Norman attempts to protect his son from the truth, by hiding it from him (Unfortunately, Harry not only finds out about his father's true relationship with the Green Goblin, but eventually goes on

Ruchi Bhalla
1B Software

The United Nations Organization (UNO) was officially founded immediately after World War II on October 24th, 1945. It has four main purposes: "to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations." When the United States became a permanent member, they agreed to uphold the UN's obligations and work within the organization to achieve and maintain world peace.

The United Nations has never avoided its responsibilities. During the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Iraq was found in violation with the UN charter and was offered a clear alternative of peaceful withdrawal. However, Iraq rejected the offer and the UN was compelled to authorize the use of force.

Following recent developments however, (specifically, the US led war on Iraq), it is quite clear that in this case, the UN has not been allowed to live up to its purpose. There is no doubt that Iraq is "hiding weapons of mass destruction" and has continued to violate its 1991 ceasefire obligations. However, the important point to note is that this is not an issue for the States alone, but for the entire international community. When the States decided to use force without UN backing, this action can be hardly be deemed as legitimate. Iraq was put under intense pressure and yielded more progress than anyone had seen in an entire decade. The weapon inspectors were allowed back, after an absence of four years and unmanned US planes were authorized to fly over prohibited areas. The progress was slow but it seemed to be producing results. The United Nations was re-examining the situation from an unbiased point of view. They know that war is the last resort and in order to authorize such an extreme measure, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that there is no other alternative.

However, the fact remains that the inspectors were not given the appropriate time needed to complete their report and state to the Security Council that without a

doubt, Iraq is not going to disarm. That's the proof that shows the UN's role has diminished in the international affairs. No more than three countries are willing to commit its troops in the unauthorized invasion of Iraq; this clearly shows that the United Nations is trusted to carry out its mission as an international forum for diplomacy. As the United Nations, it is trusted to attempt all possibilities before resorting to force.

Article 2 of the UN charter clearly forbids all UN members from "the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state". The UN Security General, Kofi Annan, stated in an unofficial press release that a US attack on Iraq without UN authorization would be in violation of its charter.

Thus, the States withdrawing its resolution from the UN and moving on with the "disarming of Saddam Hussein" robs from the international community the chance to act in a strengthening fashion and maintain the "united" in "United Nations". Furthermore, the U.S. ignored the Security General's warning and proceeded to launch an attack on Iraq with the help of the "coalition of the willing". This statement clearly diminishes the UN's status because it sends out the message that a permanent member of the organization doubts the UN's peace keeping efforts. It is a poor example of international diplomacy because in case of future confrontations, other nations might be tempted to adopt this "direct invasion" method rather than wait for a complete and unbiased report completed by a trusted organization.

In conclusion, an unsanctioned U.S. war on Iraq has deprived our world of an important and useful organization. The United Nations will never receive the same response or have the same credibility as it did previously. A permanent member has violated its contract and interfered with its proceedings. Therefore, the rest of the world cannot view the UN as an unbiased organization anymore and it is indeed a loss for all of us.

Editor's Note: Point vs. Counterpoint is intended as a forum for objective and thought provoking debate on various issues. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the author(s), the Iron Warrior, or the Engineering Society.

don't care about Waterloo Engineering, EngSoc activities, IW, etc. So, many of us will graduate from engineering, happy to put Waterloo behind and be gone from this place.

If you've ever worked in retail, you learn to respect other retail employees and what they do, and to despise those annoying

Continued on page 13. See Ignorance vs. Truth.

How To Pay For School?

Jasmin Mulaosmanovic
4B Electrical

If you're in 4th year don't bother reading because it will be just waste of your time. Anybody else might actually learn something. I hope I'll be able to pass some of my knowledge and experience on to you.

All of us here at school have had to go through that joyous activity of writing a cheque in the amount of your life savings at the end of each work-term for the never ending increases in tuition. If you're lucky enough that your mommy and daddy pay your tuition or you got some awesome scholarships, good for you, you can stop reading this article as well.

Now that I've got the right audience I'll start. Those who know me personally have had the privilege of hearing me complain about the OSAP this entire term. Naïve me, was lucky enough to be able to cover the school expenses up to the 4B term. For the sake of fun and educational experience I decided to do my last work term in Europe. I figured I should be able to get some OSAP to cover my tuition for the last school term, so why not take a 60% pay cut and go overseas and have fun. Oh, was I ever wrong - about OSAP that is. Europe was cool, so no regrets about the whole thing. But OSAP was not.

For those of you who haven't applied for OSAP before, it's an application asking how much money you're going to be earning on your work term, how much money you've got saved up, how much stocks & RRSPs you've got, how much your parents earn, and whether you own a car. Based on the application, you're assessed whether you're eligible to get interest free loan while you're still in school. When I applied for OSAP, the online application system gave me an estimate of \$1000. I figured that's OK, because I can appeal the amount based on the fact that one of my parents was unemployed for a year. After a total of 3 appeals, 2 others that were based on the fact I was not living with my parents during the work term, I received probably more than 5 different re-assessments. The latest one said I was eligible for \$257.

Of course, I was absolutely fed up with these amounts so I had a chat with one of the ladies at the Student Awards office. Here are my findings. The fact I chose to work in Europe was my personal choice. I was the one who accepted the low paying job (300 euros or about \$450 a week), once again personal choice. But I wanted to get educational experience, wrong reason; we are not required to have international educational/work experience. What ticked me off the most is the fact that the money you make anywhere you work is converted to Canadian dollars, but the expenses you're allowed stay in absolute amounts in Canadian dollars. Just to give you a quick idea what I'm talking about - a McDonald's meal in Europe is about 5 euros. That converts to \$8. But OSAP only considers the fact that you'd pay \$5 for a McDonald's meal in Canada, meaning you're expected to save \$3. But it was your own choice to be in Europe in the first place and spend that extra \$3 for the McDonald's meal, so tough luck sucker.

Here's the real kick, OSAP is not really a loan because the Ontario taxpayer takes care of our interest charges while we're in school. By the way, as a student you're not considered a taxpayer. But my mommy and daddy are. So what? You're the one asking for OSAP. This makes me think about why we are charged deregulated fees based on the fact we'll be earning so much money after graduation, and yet the fact that we'll be paying lots of taxes at the same time does not get considered at all?

The simple formula used by OSAP when calculating your eligibility:

Income/Assets (from all sources) - Expenses (tax allowance, tuition, living expenses, books) as allowed by OSAP = Some Amount

If this Some Amount is negative then they might give you some money. If not, joke's on you. You may have noticed that the above formula does not include Liabilities (ie. stuff you bought with your credit cards or your line of credit at the local bank). OSAP does not care if you already had loans from other places, so make sure that when you report your assets you've personally deducted your liabilities or your planned repayments for the liabilities. Make sure that by the 16th week prior to the start of school, your bank account has covered those liabilities. Otherwise the

money that you really don't have gets counted against you.

Facts you should know about OSAP (as per 2002/2003 Student Eligibility and Financial Need Assessment Manual):

- The provincial government considers you to be a dependent of your parents for a period of 5 years since you left high school, ie. your mommy and daddy are responsible for your education during that time.

- The federal government considers you to be a dependent of your parents for a period of 4 years since you left high school.

- During your pre-study period (ie. your work term), you are automatically considered to be living with your parents. You can appeal this by filling out "How to Appeal Your Pre-study Period Contribution" form available at Student Awards Office.

- OSAP allowance for textbooks per term is \$293. I think we all know how much our books really cost. I was told that when you're considered for a bursary this allowance is increased.

- Monthly tax allowance (money according to OSAP that is taken away from your for taxes, like CPP and EI). I think last time I checked I was getting a lot more taken off my pay check.

- o \$1 to \$1,249 5.76%

- o \$1,250 to \$2,999 8.93%

- o \$3,000 and over 12.71%

- Monthly living allowances (money according to OSAP that should cover your living costs)

- o Dependent/independent living at home \$390

- o Dependent/independent away from home \$926

- You're allowed to have \$2000 for each year out of high school saved up in the RRSPs. This money is not considered when determining your eligibility for the OSAP.

Now, I'm sure most students fall into the category of living away from home during work terms so let's break down those monthly living costs.

Room	\$400
Phone	\$50
Food	\$200
Bus to work	\$80
Total	\$730

That leaves you with about \$200 to buy

cleaning/personal hygiene supplies, do laundry, get some clothes, and cover a few textbooks that aren't covered under the textbook allowance. Oh by the way, you're not allowed to go out and see a few movies and have a few drinks with your friends. After all, we don't want taxpayers' money to be wasted!

So if you didn't get the OSAP, your next option is to apply for a bursary. I've talked to several students who told me they got denied a bursary. Apparently this is quite common for engineers, since there are "so many high paying co-op jobs" out there. Few of these individuals told me that they didn't bother applying for OSAP since they figured they would get denied. Luckily for me I was able to qualify for the bursary, not the full amount of \$1500 / term, but enough to cover some of my expenses. If you need money really badly, the staff at Student Awards also asks you if you wish to apply for an emergency loan. The only catch is that you have to have a proof of employment for the next term in order for them to release the funds to you. Here we come back to that abundance of co-op/full time jobs. Keep in mind that they also ask you if you have a job during your school semester? I'm sure everyone has his or her own answer to this question.

I think I've said enough. So if you need money, apply for OSAP. Even if you get just a few bucks from OSAP, you'll most likely qualify for the bursary, which is much better than a loan!

Do everyone a favour and next time fill out those debt load surveys, they just might make your life easier, or if not yours, maybe for that poor sap coming down the road.

Oh, one more thing for the frosh. Pay your tuition on time; otherwise there is no talking your way out of those interest charges. The person at the other end of the phone line (UW finance dept.) does not care if you didn't know something or if you were thousands of miles away from your home and unable to pay your tuition bill on time.

Hope you will have much more enjoyable experience with the OSAP program than I did. Good luck!

Orifice Break-In Affects Us All

Kiran Dhaliwal

2A Electrical



On the evening of Monday March 3, the Engineering Society office, the Orifice, was forcibly broken into and robbed blind. Mary Bland, who works closely with the Orifice and the Engineering C&D was the first to come in on Tuesday morning at 6:50 AM, and discover that the front lock had been broken. Campus police suspect the perpetrators used a crowbar to pry open the relatively strong set of double doors.

This burglary is just one of several campus-wide thefts that have been plaguing the University of Waterloo. The Engineering C & D was robbed in the first

weekend of this term, followed by robberies in places such as the MathSoc office, the Math C&D, the ESS office, the Science Society's office and several professors' offices as well. The frequency of theft has been so severe this term that some places have even been broken into twice. Unfortunately, campus police insist that their hands are tied because the issue of understaffing is blatantly obvious, yet it is beyond their ability to hire more personnel. Campus police is seeking the co-operation of all students to help put an end to these crimes by reporting any unusual activity that may relate to this issue.

The thieves took off with the EngSoc video camera, the Yearbook's digital camera and charity money collected from the recent Pie-in-the-Face event. They also left the Engineering Society with a hefty bill to replace a ruined filing cabinet, the cabinet locks that were smashed, the lock on the front door, the locks and keys for

several EngSoc - operated facilities as well as the cost of repairing the photocopier which was damaged during the break-in. The very deliberate and methodical nature of the crime shows that this was more than just a prank and that the criminals knew what they were doing.

Sadly, the cost for repair and replacements will have to be covered by funds from the Engineering Society budget. EngSoc president, Dave Clegg, explained that part of the cost might be covered by money set aside by both A-Soc and B-Soc for capital expenditures. This money was intended to be used for plans such as fixing up POETS, getting new speakers in the CPH foyer and POETS, improving the Orifice and buying new or improving existing AV equipment to loan to students. It is predicted that EngSoc funds will also need to be diverted for improving security of the Orifice, the C & D and POETS.

Many intense feelings were stirred by this unexpected and heinous crime, especially in those staff members and students who frequently work in the Orifice. Mary Bland, who has been working in the Orifice since 1995 said she "can't believe this happened." Dave Clegg also commented that it frustrates him greatly that it seems like student groups are being particularly targeted, since these organizations are the ones most strapped for cash and are operated by the students for the students. Both Mary and Dave mentioned that the way the Orifice and the C&D operate behind-the-scenes will be more secure, but students should not notice any changes in the operation of either EngSoc business. This crime has taught the student body that one can never be too careful when it comes to preventing personal theft. Unfortunately the loss of feeling safe and secure experienced by some, makes this a lesson learned at a terrible price.

EngSoc

Talented Engineering Students? Isn't That an Oxymoron?

Christine McCullough
2A Chemical

With another term nearly finished, it seems the artistic talent of engineers in all departments was just dying to bust out. TalEng provided the perfect opportunity for many talented engineers to let their artistic side come out and play.

Amazing rhythm was displayed by the UW Breakers in a display of hip-hop dancing and stepping. We found ourselves singing along to the medley performed by Drew Morris on guitar and Chris Lau on violin. Who knew that Brain Adams music could be that much fun? James Rowe provided comic relief and revealed a possibly feasible business idea...Panty Land. Run with that one James, I think you have something there. FOCapella gave us a melodic rendition of "Godiva", in which most of us joined in, until they got past the first verse, and who really knows anymore than the first verse. Fun nonetheless.

"...the single most excruciating thing I experienced all night."

Of course we had our less talented presentations too. It was like watching the American Idol "Best of the Worst" show. It was painful. I'm going to have to pick Mark Mollison's Japanese as the single most excruciating thing I experienced all night. Although the "Iron Chef" parody was a good idea, the "old Exec" took a little too much artistic license. I have never seen the challenger physically assault the Iron Chef, sorry Josh.

Among the talent there were also some spirited moments showcasing what those of less creative aptitude can do; we can kidnap people. Although I'm sure it wasn't originally in his plans for the evening, Will Hamilton, the Arts Students Union President, graced us with his presence, albeit, not under his own will. He even got hoisted above the heads of his hijackers; I don't think he realized that that is a thing of honour, but it is. He was a good sport and one day will make a great night shift manager at McDonald's.

All in all, an entertaining, occasionally painful, but fun evening. Karim Lallani and Surnit Shukla did a great job in organizing the event. It's a lot of work, but it was well worth it. Even with the change in venue this term, there was an amazing turnout. Great job guys! Maybe next term Karim can come out of the organizational role and be one of the acts; I hear he is a very skilled tap dancer.

Included photographs feature the brandishing of the ASU President (top left), Ian Mackenzie (right) and Chris Lau and Drew Morris (bottom left).



Game On! ECE Spirit Event

Kiran Dhaliwal

2A Electrical



On Thursday March 20, the Electrical and Computer Engineering department threw this term's ECE Spirit Day. The idea behind this event is to get the students and faculty of the largest engineering departments together outside of classrooms and offices. The Spirit Day is held every 4 months, but activities vary from term to term. The last B-Soc ECE Spirit Day was the BBQ at Columbia Lake Playing Fields in the summer.

The fun was scheduled to start at 4:30pm on Thursday, but to the disappointment of many hungry and time-pressed Elecs and Comps, dinner did not show up until after 5pm and the Cove did not open until sometime close to 5:30pm. Nonetheless, it was worth the wait for the freshly baked pizza from SLC's own Ground Zero and the night of free play at the Campus Cove.

Highlights of the gaming action included several games of pool between faculty and students. Although nobody officially kept score, it was obvious why most faculty members beat a pretty hasty retreat after dinner. Competition was fierce at the foosball tables as well, and no engineering party would be complete without a dozen guys playing LAN games at the back of the room. Another popular game was Daytona racing, allowing multiple players to burn rubber while competing with each other over something other than rankings.

Campus cove renovated and updated some of their games this term, and one such addition has been the music and dance section near the front entrance. The more popular games in this section included Drum Mania, a drummer simulation game, as

well as my personal favourite, Dance Dance Revolution. It was entertaining for participants as well as spectators to watch true professionals fly on their feet, and first time players fall on their faces. Note: no Comps or Elecs were hurt in the writing of this article.

The turnout for ECE Spirit Day was impressive, especially considering the impending pressure of finals and end of term projects. A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers who organized and ran this very successful event.



E&CE students enjoying free game play.



Challenges at the fussball table

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS: OUTGOING EXECUTIVE

Outgoing President Report

Dave Clegg

Outgoing President



It's the last week and another term has come and gone. As I did in the summer term, I'd like to take this time to do a self-evaluation of my performance over the term as your president. I encourage you to evaluate me in the same way, and to send me your feedback. I can only see so much, and I rely on your responses to see how I've really done.

When I was elected back in Fall 2001 I made five election promises: to establish an on-line exam bank within engineering, to add a scanner to the Orifice, to bring back the engineering prank, to establish an Engineering Used Book Store, and to investigate and/or obtain external liability insurance for events. Several distractions arose this term and prevented me from focussing completely on these promises, but nevertheless progress was made in all areas, though it was admittedly small in some.

My first promise has been completely achieved. Over the course of 2002 Gordon Chiu, Dave Taubensee and I established the on-line exam bank, the Beta version of which was demonstrated during the potluck in the Summer term. Over the Fall term Gordon continued to code up a storm for this project, establishing the vital connections with IST to enable the authentication protocols to work, while Dave and I focussed on writing test cases and scanning over 10,000 pages of exams into the bank. The result was announced in the first EngSoc meeting of this term, and though it still had a few bugs in it, Gordon and Dave have worked tirelessly to deliver a top-notch final product to us. Check it out at <http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/www/exam-bank/>.

A scanner in the Orifice is the next logical step to accompany an on-line exam bank. Although I have fallen behind on this task and a scanner can still not be found in the

Orifice, a plan is in place to secure one for the summer term. Mark Mollison (VPF) has presented me with quotes from different companies for a new integrated network printer/scanner/fax machine that will be purchased after the Orifice has closed for the term. Expect to see this new piece of equipment kicking around during the Fall term.

After a slow start at the beginning of this term the Morale project is starting to take off, bringing a return to the engineering prank and hopefully involving a wider variety of students in these activities. Larissa Beneteau, Martin Rivet and Chris McCullough have been spearheading this project and have met with some moderate successes organizing pranks themselves, encouraging other classes to prank and beginning a list of interested participants for future activities. The pranks were always run with the goals of friendly rivalry and mutual respect in mind, and I sincerely hope they will continue that way in the terms to come. Evidence of increased pranking and spirit around the faculty was very evident this term, and included such favourites as the IRS concrete wall, the IRS recycling bins, Vote Banana, Mechs on the Beach/Chemadians rivalry, and a new rivalry developing between La RÉSistance and the Chemandos. There were also the banners up on the roof during Campus Day and the surprise appearance of the Arts President at TalEng last Wednesday. Congratulations to all involved and thank you for respecting the rules of the game, and please keep it up! We all benefit when friendly rivalries bring us closer together.

The Engineering Used Book Store has been my biggest failing this term, and I apologize for not following through with this promise. Though I am committed to putting the wheels in motion by the end of the term (please ask your class rep about this), it is clear that we will not have a fully functional bookstore in the near future, and that an undertaking like this will take years to establish. In the short run a cabinet has been secured for the Orifice and it is my hope that in the summer and fall terms books will begin to accumulate in this cabinet after a little coaxing by execs, and that future execs will focus on the

long-term success of this business. The objective of the Engineering Used Book Store was to offer a closer, less expensive alternative to books offered at the SLC Used Book Store, by virtue of the minimal mark-up that would be charged within the faculty.

Requests for external liability for EngSoc events have once again thankfully not been an issue this term, as directors have continued to find creative ways to better their events and to offer them to a wider range of participants. However, it should be noted that as a part of our ongoing investigation to secure asset insurance relating to the multiple break-ins in EngSoc locations, we have also investigated liability insurance, and it is entirely possible, by virtue of making a good business deal, that we may end up with external liability insurance very shortly as part of a package. Stay tuned for more on this one.

Finally, I'd like to give a quick rundown of the other issues that have arisen this term that have distracted me from achieving the goals I set out in my original election plan. Where possible I have tried to include a resolution, if there has been one.

- Break-ins and Security of EngSoc locales: A major thorn in my side this term. Both ASoc and BSoc have agreed to split the costs of new security enhancements to the Orifice, the C&D and to POETS. The final details should be hammered out this week and, if luck is with us, implementation will begin during exam time.

- Fed Hall/Bomber closures: I have tried my best this term to represent the views of Engineering students to the FEDS and to admin as much as possible. Points of notable discussion occurred surrounding the IRS at FED Hall debacle, numerous student demonstrations, endorsement of the "Last Bomber Wednesday" at Philthy's, and other issues arising from regular meetings with the Council of Presidents.

- Proposed Referendum on Strikeable Fees: On Sunday March 16 the FEDS Committee on the Collection of Incidental Fees recommended to FEDS council that they not support the notion of strikeable fees. This has potential ramifications in

the Fall term, since if the individuals collecting petition signatures force a referendum, EngSoc could be dragged into a referendum battle that, if successful, could financially cripple the society. My recommendation to the committee, as supported by research and my talks with engineering students at Waterloo, can be found at http://www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/www/documents/engsoc_fee_collection.doc.

- Nexus upgrade in Orifice: Because Polaris is not being supported beyond May 1st there was a major push this term to upgrade the computers in the Orifice. The necessary new hardware was purchased at a cost of \$750, the software is being installed this week, and before the week is out the Orifice should be running on Nexus.

- POETS upgrade: Proposals have gone into SLEF (Student Life Endowment Fund) and Gradcomm 2002 to upgrade the study space and the entertainment space in POETS. Gradcomm 2002 is funding a major sound system expansion to POETS that is aiming to be in place by EOT. Feedback from the SLEF proposal is pending, and we are awaiting the results from that request for better tables and chairs in the upstairs POETS balcony.

My apologies for the length of this report, but I felt it was important to let you all know exactly what I had been working on this term, what had been accomplished, and what got sidetracked by unexpected events. As always, please feel free to toss me an email at bsoc_prez@engmail.uwaterloo.ca if you have a question, criticism, or suggestion, and I'll be sure to reply as soon as I can.

On a personal note, it has been my utmost pleasure and privilege to serve you guys as your president for the last 16 months. Though the world of graduation beckons, I will always miss the time that I spent at Waterloo, and especially my time with the Engineering Society. Best of luck to all of you in the years to come.

Dave Clegg

Outgoing VP Internal Report

Josh Levitz

Outgoing VP Internal



So here is my last spew as VPI that any of you will ever have to read. I know, I know, you'll all miss me terribly but I expect to write better articles in my new presidential spews starting next fall!

First of all, I want to thank everyone who helped make my terms as VPI as good as they were. To all my directors, you have my appreciation for everything you did and I appreciate the time you put into EngSoc. I look forward to working with you (and new directors) as President in the upcoming terms! I also want to thank the rest of our exec. Clegg, Steph, Dan, and Mark, it was great working for you and I

hope to see you all for a post-exec retreat in Montreal over the summer. And Dave and Mark, I'm sorry you're old but good luck in the "real" world!

This is the point at which I usually list off events, but the term is over and unless you want me to remind you about finals, you're out of luck. I do hope to see everyone at EOT tonight for a final good time of the term. Good luck on the exams though, and if you need any help with studying or learning, you'll probably be able to find me at Weavers quite a bit over the next few weeks (stress relief!)

That's all for me as VPI but expect more from me as Prez. Thanks again to everyone for the last 16 months. I also have to wish the best of luck to Matt Strickland, your new VPI; I hope you have as much fun as I did! Have a good summer.

Josh "I hope I'm back next term" Levitz

Outgoing VP Education Report

Dan Robinson

Outgoing VP Education



Hey Everyone,

I would just like to take a second to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the debt load surveys and course critiques. The feedback from these surveys is instrumental in decision making both in the Engineering Society and at the level of the Dean. FYI the results from course critiques are available in the orifice. There is a book that can be signed out by showing your watacard to Betty that contains all the results of the past terms critiques. You may want to consider taking a look at this before signing up for your courses next

term, we all know some profs are better than others.

On the subject of Co-op, there was a forum in RCH 101 this Thursday March 27th at 4:30. Co-op has promised to allow use of the new building for studying during finals. Details of how this will be administered have not been released. I will forward this information as soon as it is available.

My term as VP-Education is almost over, but the work continues. Emma Saask will be taking over for me next fall, and you can reach her at the same old e-mail, bsoc_vpedu@engmail.uwaterloo.ca. It's been a learning experience for me, and I hope you felt as if you received adequate representation. You can pass on any comments or criticisms to me at the standard email, and I will pass on any advice I can glean from them to Emma.

Columns

Outgoing VP Finance Report

Mark Mollison

**Outgoing
VP Finance**



Hello fellow engineering students... Although I soon will no longer be a student. This will be my final report of the term. I would first like to say that I had an amazing time these past 32 months as your VP-Finance spending lots of your/our money. I would like to congratulate Grant Holohan, in his successful entry into the engineering society executive.

Anyway, we are currently in a healthy situation. Although our original budget indi-

cated a fairly large deficit, there was a significantly light amount of spending this term. I am predicting once all bills are paid to have a surplus in our bank of \$15 to \$20 thousand. That is a gain of \$5 to \$10 thousand over last term. However, we will be running a deficit budget for the next couple of years until the photocopier debt is fully repaid. From that point on a budgeted surplus may commence pending any other large spending. The handbook has been an excellent source of income and will hopefully continue to be so. Tiffany is hot.

By the end of this term we will have a new stereo system in POETS, a new fax/printer/scanner in the Orifice, a digital video camera, a Nexus upgrade in the Orifice, insurance, and security systems in all

essential areas. I would like to thank the graduating class of 2002 for their generous donation for the purchase of stereo equipment for POETS.

Before I leave campus I will attempt to prepare a five or ten year plan indicating possible heavy expenditures and increases in our operating expenses. It is foreseeable that several capital expenditures will be required to maintain our existing services. Some of our assets are becoming very old and will require replacement. The document will be available during the A-Soc term and Grant will also receive a copy for everyone's review. This plan is not to force any future executive to follow a course of action, but perhaps to enlighten everyone as to our possible future outcome. I believe your new exec will do an

excellent job regardless of this report and the engineering society shall be prosperous.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone for helping out and participating in any which way that you could, and my fellow executives: Dave, Dan, Josh and Steph : Tania, Rosie, Stu and Mary). I would also like to thank Mary Bland in ways that words cannot describe. Mary, I do not know how we would ever do things without you! You make our societies seamless, and prosperous. You are definitely an extraordinary person! Mary, 1000 hugs forever! One more thank-you to Tiffany, for making my life a special one, always and forever.

Outgoing WEEF Director Report

Denis Viens

**Outgoing
WEEF Director**



As another term comes to an end, so does my reign (of Terror, depending who you ask) as WEEF Director end. Starting in September 2003, Erin Young will take over. I would like to thank all

those who helped out, especially the WEEF reps and my assistants. Here are the stats for this term and the funding decisions. As a reminder to all, I make no promise to anyone who submits anything during exam period. It may not get processed until Marc comes back in the summer term. To all of you, have a great next term, and to my fellow grads, enjoy life.

WEEF Participation - Winter 2003				
Term	Discipline	# Enrolled	# Refunds	Participation Rate
1B	CHEMICAL	53	10	81.13%
2A	CHEMICAL	73	15	79.45%
3B	CHEMICAL	61	15	75.41%
4B	CHEMICAL	62	45	27.42%
1B	CIVIL	77	12	84.42%
3A	CIVIL	69	38	44.93%
4B	CIVIL	70	31	55.71%
1B	COMPUTER	194	79	59.28%
3A	COMPUTER	180	99	45.00%
3B	COMPUTER	75	38	49.33%
4B	COMPUTER	162	63	61.11%
2A	ELECTRICAL	119	37	68.91%
3B	ELECTRICAL	83	47	43.37%
4B	ELECTRICAL	83	49	40.96%
2A	ENVIRONMENTAL (CHEMICAL & CIVIL)	18	8	55.56%
3A	ENVIRONMENTAL (CHEMICAL & CIVIL)	24	16	33.33%
3B	ENVIRONMENTAL (CHEMICAL & CIVIL)	26	14	46.15%
4B	ENVIRONMENTAL (CHEMICAL & CIVIL)	61	40	34.43%
3B	GEOLOGICAL	9	6	33.33%
4B	GEOLOGICAL	4	4	0.00%
1B	MECHANICAL	102	21	79.41%
2A	MECHANICAL	79	31	60.76%
3A	MECHANICAL	79	39	50.63%
3B	MECHANICAL	68	32	52.94%
4B	MECHANICAL	155	87	43.87%
1B	SOFTWARE	105	2	98.10%
2A	SYSTEMS	87	37	57.47%
3B	SYSTEMS	64	16	75.00%
4B	SYSTEMS	81	23	71.60%
	NON DEGREE	208	16	92.31%
	OVERALL	2,531	970	61.68%

Outgoing VP External Report

Steph Purnell

**Outgoing
VP External**



and Rosie Pareja!! Ta-da! Thank you all for everything you've done.

I want to thank all my directors from this term—you've been great! I want to mention some directors who have done an outstanding job this term: Kathy and Lesley, you did a wonderful job with Bus Push; Sarah, I could always count on you; Jen, Preya and Elizabeth, way to pull off Pi-throw! Everyone else—you done good, too!

I also want to thank the other outgoing exec for all the good times. There's nothing like puking in Montreal to bring people closer together.

There's not much else left to say...so good luck on your exams and Godspeed!

Steph Purnell

This is my last exec report, and I want to thank everyone for all the fun I've had this past 16 months. I've travelled from Halifax to Saskatoon for you guys—how dedicated am I? Conferences are great fun, as well as awesome for meeting people and learning a lot. I encourage anyone who hasn't gone to try and go to one before they graduate.

Last weekend I presented the Paul and Paula Plummer awards at Gradball to those students who've gone above and beyond for the Society—and here they are, in alphabetical order: Tania Bortolon, Dave Clegg, Mark Mollison, Jonathan Ng

Proposal Title	Page	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated
Departments and Engineering Support Groups			
<i>Chemical Department</i>			
1- Computer and Spectrophotometer for ChE 32 Laboratory	2	\$6250.00	\$6250.00
<i>Civil Department</i>			
2- Analytical Balance	3	\$8732.33	\$0.00
3- Dedicated Undergraduate Data-Acquisition system	4	\$2446.66	\$2446.66
4- Dedicated Undergraduate Toolkit phase II	6	\$833.33	\$833.33
5- Digital Transits	7	\$5333.33	\$0.00
6- Hach Portable Turbidimeter	9	\$1150.00	\$1150.00
7- Peristaltic Pump (Cole Palmer)	10	\$1539.36	\$1539.36
8- Permeability Apparatus Water Head Tank	11	\$1219.00	\$0.00
9- Signal Optimisation Software	12	\$3283.00	\$3283.00
<i>E&CE Department</i>			
10- Computer Enhanced Workstation	13	\$1472.00	\$0.00
11- F&CF Computer Upgrade for NEXUS	15	\$12500.00	\$4000.00
12- F&CF Lab Oscilloscopes and Deskjet Printers	16	\$8900.00	\$8500.00
<i>Mechanical Department</i>			
13- Numerically Controlled Milling Machine	17	\$4000.00	\$4000.00
<i>Systems Department</i>			
14- Digital Oscilloscope for Systems Design Teaching Lab	18	\$3500.00	\$3500.00
15- Multimedia Projector Security Boxes	19	\$1600.00	\$800.00
16- Microcontroller Boards and Accessories for Workshop Lab	20	\$2160.00	\$2160.00
17- New Experiment for the Undergraduate Laboratory	21	\$10000.00	\$3300.00
<i>Others</i>			
18- Optical Mouse Upgrades for NEXUS Computers	23	\$2250.00	\$0.00
19- Up-front Connections for NEXUS Computers	24	\$8482.50	\$600.00
20- RMD Tube Cutter and Notcher	25	\$8000.00	\$9100.00
Departments and Engineering Support Groups Total		\$74549.02	\$51462.85
Student Teams			
21- UW Alternative Fuels Team WEEF Proposal	26	\$3705.00	\$3705.00
22- Waterloo Aerial Robotics Group (WARG)	27	\$7605.00	\$2000.00
23- SAE Clean Snowmobile Team (Team LCO-SNOW)	30	\$1510.00	\$1510.00
24- Concrete Toboggan 2005	31	\$6050.00	\$2000.00
25- Team Advancement of the UW Formula SAE Team	32	\$5400.00	\$4400.00
26- Midnight Sun VII Solar Race Car Project	34	\$5000.00	\$2031.15
27- 2003 Waterloo Off-Road Mini-Baja Team (WOMBAT)	35	\$2548.00	\$2548.00
28- Upgrade to POETS' Upstairs Study Area	38	\$5300.00	\$0.00
29- SMRT-Student Managed Radio Telescope Array	40	\$5740.00	\$0.00
30- The Silmarillion Project	41	\$343.00	\$343.00
Student Teams Total		\$43201.00	\$18537.15
Grand Total		\$117750.02	\$70000

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS: INCOMING EXECUTIVE

Incoming President Report

Josh Levitz

Incoming President



If you've already read my other spew in this paper, still read this one as I feel overall that it is a better piece of writing. Anyway, hey everyone, I'm your new EngSoc president, Josh Levitz. Many of

you will (hopefully) recognize me as the former VPI, and all around nice-guy!

To start off, I have quite a few ideas to improve our Society, and I look forward to working with many of you to implement them. I want to start a tutor bank so students who want to tutor can have their names listed (on the website most likely) with the courses they wish to teach. I'll let you know more about this next term when I start getting it going. I am also big on inter-faculty, and moreso interschool, rela-

tions so stay tuned for more events with Guelph, McMaster, and others. I intend to continue with the "morale" side of things, and the used book-store Clegg (remember, the old guy?) started. Other ideas will be coming but, as I always said as VPI, I would love to hear any suggestions or opinions that you may have.

One thing everyone can be guaranteed is that I will put so much into the engineering society to make it more accessible, and to increase participation at all events. I gen-

uinely care about the society and I look forward to representing everyone to administration, outside schools, and any groups I may have to. You can believe me when I say the state of the Society is only getting better from here on in. So, good luck in the summer term and I look forward to the upcoming terms as your President.

Josh Levitz

Incoming VP Internal Report

Matt Strickland

Incoming VP Internal



Well, I guess we should all start by getting acquainted: my name is Matt Strickland and for the next two academic terms, I'm going to have the pleasure of being your VPI. First off, I'd like to thank the current out-going Engsoc executive for doing such an awesome job over the last couple terms. They've definitely left us with big shoes to fill.

Now that that's said: out with the old and in with the new! To quote George W. Bush, "I think we agree, the past is over." Those of us on the new executive are chalk-full of excitement and of good ideas and schemes for the fall term. And what a term it should be, what with the largest and youngest group of engineering frosh ever to step foot at UW. The VPI job is, in my opinion, the most interesting one on the exec with pretty much everything fun falling under the post. It's going to be my job to help directors in organizing everything from athletics and semi-formals, to charities and drama productions.

Things I'd like to see next term? I think that raising the profile of many Engsoc events is a good start. There are so many

things going on at the University (and in engineering in particular) in any given week, that it can be pretty hard to promote events and get messages through to students. I intend, and this sounds really buzz-wordy, to better "lines of communication" between the directors throwing an event and the people who might attend. Another major challenge which is going to face the in-coming executive is to diversify the activities offered by the Society. Hopefully, by creating more non-athletic, non-alcohol based events, we'll be able to appeal to a much larger group of students. Finally, I strongly want to encourage class spirit and friendly inter-class rivalries. The fall term is always an important time to help classes get off on the right foot since it's often in the first few terms that a class's involvement is defined.

So those are some of the things to be on the lookout for in F'03. I think it's also important for everyone to know that myself, and the other newly elected/acclaimed members of Engsoc are always open and willing to new ideas and initiatives which the Engineering Society could undertake. I look forward to a great term, anticipate working with an awesome group of directors, and hope to make your time here at UW that much more fun.

you're up to it then I'd love to hear from you, email me at edyoung@engmail.

The first three weeks of the semester will be crucial, and you will be seeing the WEEF logo more than you ever have before. As you may have already guessed my plan to decrease the amount of refunds is relying on bridging the gap between us students and the WEEF purchases which benefit our education. You won't have to look hard, because WEEF will be in your face, and you're going to love WEEF more than ever!

I look forward to being your WEEF Director next semester, and once again congratulations to everyone on the new exec. It's going to be a great term!

Erin "WEEF IS GOOD" Young

Incoming WEEF Director Report

Erin Young

Incoming WEEF Director



Congratulations to everyone who ran in the election and thanks to Rosie for all her hard work. It was a busy two weeks, but we had some fun and it looks like we'll be having even more fun next semester. You're probably wondering what this all has to do with WEEF. Is WEEF fun? It sure is, but you'll have to wait until next semester to find out why!

I will tell you that next semester I plan to have a host of WEEF volunteers who will function as it's own WEEF Exec. Positions will be for Finances, Promotions, Purchasing, and Reinforcement! I'm going to need energetic and creative people who are willing to think outside the box, so if you think

Incoming VP External Report

Jeff Alfonsi

Incoming VP External



I have three main objectives as VPX: Improving inter-university relationships, encouraging students to compete in new design competitions, and helping to develop ESSCO.

Inter-university relationships are very beneficial to engineering societies. It provides the opportunity for universities to share experiences, hear new ideas, and form relationships (both for fun events and university rivalries). An inter-university relationship is simply an enlarged version of an inter-class relationship. I believe, and Josh shares similar views, that this initiative can strengthen our society.

Competitions and conferences are great ways to apply engineering skills to real world applications. In addition to the usual events – for example, OEC, CFES, and CUTC – I want to encourage students to compete in other exciting competitions. The Aurora design competition and the Collegiate Inventors competition are acclaimed events that UW should definitely increase participate in. My goal is to help expand the variety of events to accommodate all of our engineering students.

Finally, as an ESSCO director, I have come to grips with the difficulties of uniting Ontario engineering societies. This initiative is similar to improving inter-university relationships, except more emphasis is placed on political structure. My goal is to make students more aware of ESSCO, and provide them the opportunity to participate or develop the organization.

Incoming VP Finance Report

Grant Holohan

Incoming VP Finance



Well now that lectures are basically done, and we're all getting ready for finals, it's time for everyone to bear down and finally get to work on all those assignments pushed aside since midterms. As for the finances, I'm working with Mark to

ensure that we have a smooth transition from this term to next.

Next term, as I promised in my campaign, I'll be holding some training sessions for new (and old) directors telling how to fill out budget forms and expense statements. Also, I'd like to make sure that next term a list of this term's director's budgets are available for new directors.

On that note, I've got to go study now. See you in September!

Incoming VP Education Report

Emma Saask

Incoming VP Education



I was a little long-winded in my campaign article, so this time I'll make it brief. Thanks to everyone who came out and voted last Wednesday, I'm really looking forward to the next couple of terms.

I have a few plans for my new position. As I mentioned in my campaign, I want to do an in depth study and projection of tuition fees and their impact on students. There's a lot of information available, including debt-load surveys, graduating student salary information, co-op salary information and bursary statistics. No-one

has really put all the information together before (at least in living memory), and I think it's about time that we do. I also want to project the current trends into the future to show how students will be affected in 5 or 10 years time if conditions follow current trends.

One thing I discovered while campaigning is that a lot of people really don't know what resources are available to them, so I'd like to start pushing exposure of services like course critique results and free money databases.

If you have anything you'd like to see done, come talk to me anytime and I'll see what I can do.

Good luck to all in finals and I'll see you next fall.

Your Executives on the Issues that Matter

...continued from Page 1.

[EY] "I believe out of the three WEEF assistants helping Denis out this term I was the only one allowed to run. Anyone else could have run, but they wouldn't have had the know-how that I got by helping Denis do the finances this term. In general I don't think people view WEEF as a very fun and rewarding position."

[JA] "Everyone was scared to run against me...haha. Actually, I cannot say why any one did not run against me. The role of the VPX is not very well known by members of EngSoc relative to other exec. That is, people have somewhat of a fuzzy impression of the VPX; therefore, they tend to shy away. (I believe the current VPX for EngSoc A was also acclaimed)."

The Issues

These individuals and the other executives will have to represent your views to the Federation of Students and the Faculty of Engineering on many issues. Their leadership could be the deciding factor in many situations. The following questions were asked to get an idea of how they will respond to issues regarding your personal freedoms and your money.

First, the Iron Warrior looked at the new executives' views on two controversial EngSoc A policy debates. Each of the debates have not yet occurred on EngSoc B council.

In winter 2002, EngSoc A implemented the following policy after an extremely heated discussion. "There shall be no adult sex movies in POETS as defined by the Ontario Film Review Board." Many questions arose during the debate about the importance of the personal freedoms.

[EY] "[the past EngSoc president] should never have allowed adult sex movies in POETS, and I support the ban of these types of movies. If you want to watch porn then go rent it, I hear memberships are reasonable. Seriously, this stuff has no place in POETS."

[JA] "I cannot see any advantage in allowing adult films to be aired in POETS. Feel free to watch in your own home."

[ES]. "I do not support censorship in any way, however I do think that common sense should be used . . . POETS is a lounge serving all members of the Engineering Society, and as such should not be showing material that a significant segment of the society finds offensive. I don't think that it needs to become an official policy, as programmers should use common sense when choosing what to show. Just as Barney the Dinosaur is offensive to many and inappropriate for show in our lounge, porn should be kept for private events. If a group chooses to have a porn night in POETS, as long as they follow proper booking procedures, I see no problem with that."

[MS] "First off, I'm not sure what the heck "an adult sex movie" is. Is it a porn flic (sic)? Because if it, it seems more weird than anything else that we be showing it. I'll assume that it's just a movie with some sexual content, at which point I'd have to point out that EngSoc shouldn't have to be PG-13. Let's just say that if it isn't a top

shelf movie, I think it should be allowable."

The second heated policy debate on the other society has not yet been resolved. Last fall the executive proposed that "There shall be no opinion posters allowed on Engineering Society Boards." This question will be looked at during the spring term. It has already caused a bit of a stir outside the faculty.

[EY] "Opinion posters should not be endorsed by EngSoc, because the views of the participant(s) may not necessarily reflect those of the EngSoc exec or general EngSoc members. There are other ways of voicing opinions, and those other venues should be used."

[JA] "Opinion boards can be very stimulating if they are run properly. I had a very positive experience with them in my residence. Of course, the board requires some etiquette. Poster away!"

[ES] "... I firmly believe that rhetoric should be fought with rhetoric, and that the society has no place censoring the values of anyone. If a group is offended by a particular poster, let them mount a campaign of their own. Please note that this opinion does not apply to anything that could be defined as hate literature in a legal sense, which should not be posted."

[MS] "... I don't believe groups outside of EngSoc and others directly related to Engineering should be allowed to post opinion posters on Eng. Society boards. As far as I've seen, the only people who really post such "opinion" posters are campus religious groups. I think they can easily find other means to advertise their services or events."

Next, the executives were asked their opinions regarding the petition circulated by the UW Progressive Conservative Club to make all refundable fees strikeable. This could potentially include the engineering society fees and WEEF donations.

[JA] "The moment you allow strikeable fees you jeopardize EngSoc and WEEF funding. It is very easy for someone to check a box and not pay their fees. Honestly, with tuition rising how many people will turn down money? Indifferent students will most likely strike their fees. If someone is truly opposed to paying, then they can go through the forms and effort to get their cash."

[ES] "I do not support the strikeable system for any of the fees, because I think that it is too easy to simply check the box to get money back without finding out what the service actually is. I think this is particularly true for the Engineering Society, because many students do not realize the extent to which the Engineering Society is involved in their lives (C&D is the big one that comes to mind). I also think that forcing people to go find the fee themselves ensures that they know what their fee is going to, enabling them to make an informed decision. If there was a way to ensure that students had to make an

informed decision before striking fees online, I would support the initiative, but I do not see a way to do so."

Erin went into more detail about each of the fees. She said that the EngSoc fees should not be strikeable because "the donations are important to running the EngSoc events, and it's a mere \$14." On the WEEF fees, she said "Right now it's a \$75 tax-deductible donation. Although I do believe that it should remain a donation I will encourage people to not get their refund. I do think that should you need the funds you should be able to receive it. \$75 could be one's grocery money, but I don't think it should be used as extra beer money."

[MS] "I'm against the idea of strikeable fees. There are too many students who don't need the money badly enough to work for it, but if given the chance wouldn't mind copping-out at the click of a mouse. If people really do need the money to make rent/eat this

month, then I have no problem with them requesting a reimbursement of their WEEF donation or EngSoc fee. However, people should not be allowed to take their money back on a whim."

The final issue that the incoming executives considered was IRS. They were asked how they would propose dealing with the complaints received from other faculties about the disturbances caused by IRS activities. As many of the complaints come from students and professors outside the faculty of Engineering, they were also asked if they have any ideas on how to contain IRS to engineering?

[EY] "IRS is tradition, and traditionally loud. Since Waterloo is currently lacking tradition and spirit I believe that IRS should be loud and proud, and held on campus! I don't think it should be contained."

[JA] "IRS is a tradition. Personally I don't

see the need to partake in such tomfoolery; it just ends up costing the school money. Have fun, get drunk, and organize an event or trip away from the school. Haven't you spent enough time on campus? Go celebrate at Blue Mountain."

[ES]. "I think that moving IRS to reading days has been a great step in reducing the negative effects of rowdy students. Confining IRS to Engineering would be extremely difficult, especially considering that two departments are housed within DC, which also is home to some Math resources. What I can think of offhand is to try to promote things around Engineering, like hanging around in POETS. Since one of the main joys of IRS appears to be the disrupting of classes, it would be good to inform all profs teaching in Engineering buildings that day of the events that typically take place. It would be nice if there was a way for classes to opt out of being invaded, however I do not see a realistic way of doing so.

If engineering classes were held in engineering buildings (rather than in MC) and math classes were held in MC (rather than in engineering buildings), that could also help to relieve the problem."

[MS] "Nope. I have no ideas and I'm not going to spend too much time thinking about it. Frankly, I think that IRS works quite well as is, despite complaints from other faculties. The Iron Ring Stag is one of the few traditions we have here in Waterloo Engineering. Profs are aware of when it occurs, the campus is nearly empty because of Reading Week, and it is, after all, only one day a year. I think the other faculties should suck it up."

Final Thoughts

Best regards to all of the people who cared enough about their engineering society to take the time to run in the past election. Congratulations to the new executives.

Stressed about Exams?

Now's the time to make a sane, anxiety-reducing plan to study for your final exams.

Contact Counselling Services (ext 2655) to set up a half-hour appointment with a Study Skills counsellor. You can get help setting up a final exam study schedule tailored for you...

ESSCO Elections 2003

Kathryn Edwards
ESSCO VP Communications

There are a few weeks left of school and the biggest ESSCO event of the year, the AGM, is just around the corner. If you love AGMs, then you don't want to miss this one! This year the Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario's Annual General Meeting will be held in Kingston, and hosted by Queens. The weekend is planned for late May or early June.

At this meeting many workshops will take place, the goals for the coming year will be determined and the 2003-2004 executive will be elected. This is a great opportunity to meet people from all the engineering schools across Ontario and get involved with your engineering society.

All of you undergraduate engineering students are members of ESSCO. The ESSCO Council consists of the VP Externals from all fifteen engineering schools in Ontario, four Executive Officers, and a several Project Directors. The four executive positions are: President, VP Communications, VP Services and Development, and VP Finance. The President is the official rep-

resentative of ESSCO and acts as the liaison between ESSCO and the Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and the Council of Ontario Deans of Engineering. The president also holds a seat on the Ontario Engineering Competition (OEC) Advisory Board. The VP Communications is responsible to maintain the website, record minutes of meetings, and to keep the lines of communication open between the ESSCO council and members. The VP Services and Development will assist the President in matters pertaining to engineering education and actively promote engineering to high school students and the public. The VP Finance is responsible for the maintenance of all financial accounts and book keeping.

If you are interested in learning more about these positions or are interested in running for a position, please visit our website at www.essco.ca or contact us at vpcomm@essco.ca. Join the member's link to keep informed (Info. at www.essco.ca).

To get more information about attending the AGM please ask your newly elected VP External at bsoc_vpext@engmail.uwaterloo.ca.

ECE Information Forum

Brent Cameron
3B Electrical

On March 25th the ECE department held an informal forum for the department to hear the concerns of the graduating class. The department chair Dr. Vannelli outlining how many of the concerns raised by the graduating class were being addressed.

One major complaint is that the department has been hearing from students is that students merely jumping through hoops to complete the course requirements without having a chance to really learn the material. The current 3B term was used as an example of a term that the department feels is too busy. It was noted that the curriculum of both the computer and electrical programs were currently under review and that such issues would be addressed.

Many other initiatives were presented to improve the quality of teaching within the department. This included increased collaboration for due dates between professors teaching core courses to avoid heavy crunch times throughout the term. It was also promised that the department would be more proactive in aiding new staff improve their teaching methods. This

includes classroom visits by other faculty members to observe and then suggest improvements to how lectures are run. The formation of a Chairman's Student Advisory Board was also introduced to provide student representation from each of the programs directly to the chair. These elected positions would be one year in duration.

The forum was then opened for discussion. A sentiment shared by those in attendance was that on many occasions student's are treated more like children than paying customers. Group punishment was singled out as one such demeaning act. It was emphasized that usually there is only a small number of students who abuse privileges and that they should be targeted and not the whole class. In response to this Dr. Vanelli stated that the department does have a problem with equipment being continuously damaged in lab and that they would be open to any suggestions to stop this.

The 90 minute meeting closed with an emphasis on the importance of the feedback from the graduating class to improve the program. Professor Freeman will be putting together an exit survey in the coming months. He emphasized that honesty, no matter how critical, would be useful in aiding in this continuous improvement.

Ignorance vs. Truth

...continued from Page 6.

customers who can't speak English and argue for 5 minutes about 40 cents on a package of candies for their overweight kids. But you never show your true annoyance; otherwise your ass would be fired. Imagine how many people hate their jobs and don't believe in what they are doing. Imagine how many Waterloo engineers are just going through this program for a degree. They don't care about some

idiotic Obligation; they will regurgitate it and forget about it the next day. But you'll never know, because these people will keep their thoughts to themselves. It won't really affect you anyways, because you'll never know who those people are, they'll blend in just as well, because of the image they project.

As it stands, the rest of us are living in blissful ignorance of many truths. Sometimes, it's more important to keep up

the image that is expected. You go along with what people say, feigning interest just for the fun of it, and people have no reason to suspect your insincerity. Why would they? People believe what they want to believe, and the world works better when things seem happy. Students are apathetic and lazy, so it's tough enough to inspire ideas without the negative folks actively shooting them down. The perception that our world is a happy place is a fragile thing, as current events have clearly illus-

trated. But if we all pretend that things are still rosy, maybe we'll eventually manage to convince ourselves. So why ruin the mood with the truth? If everyone revealed their true thoughts, the world would seem a lot darker. Some things are better left unknown.

Dear LowRider,



Dear LowRider,

I was walking down the hallway and I overheard some people talking about how great LowRider is. personally, I am quite sick of you and your antics. You are nothing but a hack. Everybody knows that if you were really the ghetto superstar that you claim you are, you wouldn't be here at Waterloo. Only middle class kids come here so you must be another Fred Durst. Give it up LowRider.

-Rob from 3B Chem i.e. Scam Revealer

Dear Scam Revealer,

I was walking down the hallway and I overheard some people saying what a chicken Scam Revealer is because he has

"I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to lower in the smithy of my soul the uncreated hydraulics of my ride."

to fight LowRider within a newspaper. I told them not to dis' you because you were going through some sexual dysfunction right now and you did it out of stress. Don't worry, you're still the "man".

-LR

Dear LowRider,

It's on punk. I was walking down the hallway and I overheard some people bashin' you -again! They said that you were running out of original material and that you were born and raised in Richmond Hill. Word on the street is that you don't even have a G2. Man, you're pathetic.

-Scam Revealer

Dear Scam Revealer,

I think what you heard is that I was a "G" or gangsta! Perhaps you have me confused with yo Mama! OK, that was sort of unoriginal... OK, I got it now, You ain't nothing but a Scrub and I don't want no Scrubs! Wait... was that from somewhere?

OK, OK, now I have it down, check this: You must be Living La Vida Loca! Ya boy, I done told you I had an original flow. You're so weak, last week! Know'm sayin'?

-LR

Dear LowRider,

I was helping out with Campus day and I got a whole group of high school kids lost. Can you help me find them? I think they are in E3 somewhere...

-Kampus King

Dear Kampus King,

I think I saw them! I saw a bunch of kids with really bored looks on their faces watching some grad student show how he used Runga-Kutta 96 to solve the perfect angle of pouring Nestea.

-LR

Dear LowRider,

I told a lie and I don't know what to do. I was talking to a bunch of High School Kids and one of them asked me if they would be set with full time employment when they graduate because of Co-op. I said "Yes" with a big smile. I feel I may have led them astray. What can I do now? Some pimple-faced kids are going to apply to comp eng and 5 years down the road they will blame me! What do I do?

-Fire Pants on Liar

Dear Fire Pants on Liar,

If it makes you feel better, I told some Campus day kids that the school looks for ways to save students money and that co-op coordinators are there to "help". If anybody should be punished, it should be me.

-LR

Editor's note: As always, LowRider can be reached at: UWLowRider@hotmail.com. Please refrain from sending marriage proposals to LowRider.

Perpectives

Explore the World with a Graduation Trip

Sandra Lê

4B Systems



So, what are you doing after graduation? I hear this question a lot. Maybe it is because of this shiny little ring around my pinky. The people who ask me this question are probably wondering whether I will continue post-graduation studies or if I feel ready to enter the work force. The answer that spontaneously comes to my mind is usually not the one they were expecting.

What will I do after graduation? I will reward myself for all the years of hard work at university and travel.

Are there any graduating students reading this article? Where would you like to go? One of the very common travelling destinations is Europe. If you haven't seen it yet, probably because you were too busy bouncing between a coop job and school for the last 5 years, it is a very good place to start to broaden your horizons.

Have you been there when you were young with your parents? This time, go on your own and check out those places where your parents would not take you. For example, you can have a smoke in an Amsterdam coffee shop, dance all night in a techno-rave in Berlin, visit the Moulin-Rouge in Paris, chase Jack the Ripper in London, sing some karaoke with a nice blond in Finland, eat some greasy fries with a refreshing cold beer in Belgium, drive 200 km/hr on the German highways, build your own Lego sculptures in Denmark, experience a real sauna in Sweden, go tan your pale tummy on the French Sierra, have lunch with a few stars in Monaco, discuss politics in a smoky

French café, get tickets for a Corrida in Spain, play poker with an Italian in Sicily, or just cheer with the locals in a football game in any country in Europe.

After the initial flight across the ocean, there are 4 main modes of transportation that I strongly recommend for Europe: plane, train, bicycle or boat, in this order. Many cheap airline companies offer awesome deals for flights between major cities in Europe (e.g. London-Madrid, Paris-Rome, etc.) that can be booked online for sometimes as low as 20 for the whole flight! Check out www.ryanair.com, www.easyjet.com and www.gofly.com. Some of the planes look like big flying commuter buses and have a strict luggage weight policy, but it's flying nonetheless and really cheap!!

When on land, the best and usually the fastest way to go from one city to another is the train.

Various train passes are available, either from Canada or, the much cheaper option, from Europe (www.interrail.com). For one country, a few countries or all of them, it is really convenient to be able to just look up the next departing train, hop on it, and a few hours later be in a totally different country! A few things to notice though: in the UK, there are many train companies competing for cheap prices (www.virgintrains.co.uk) but in actuality the railway system is privatized (read: not well maintained) and many accidents occur, especially in the greater London area.

In Germany, however, the trains are punctual and never wait for you. And in Italy, I haven't seen a single train arriving less than 30 minutes late; sometimes the con-

troller/driver of the train get off the train in a small village for quite a while, and comes back much later and drives off, probably after a "coffee" with a friend. That's why it takes more than 4 hours to go across the country that is only about 400 km wide! This is almost as slow as the London Underground! I heard it's similar in Spain, but I haven't experienced it personally. In Belgium, like the rest of the population, the train attendants love to tell jokes and laugh; their French neighbours are definitely not as friendly. In Switzerland, be ready to show your passport when you cross the border, and if you happen to be going through the Alps, make sure you are awake when it comes out of the tunnels, because the view is simply gorgeous! If you cross from Switzerland to Austria, watch for the Lechtentein (one of the smallest countries in the World, between the Rhine and the Alps

South of the Constance Lake), one blink and you would have never known that you passed it. Same thing when you go from Italy to France, through the Monaco tunnel which spans half the country!

If you find a large body of water between where you are and where you want to go (e.g. between Amsterdam and London, Liverpool and Dublin, Ancona and Athens, Copenhagen and Stockholm or Helsinki, etc.), I strongly recommend taking a ferry. For long crossings like between the continent and UK, or between Scandinavian cities, super-fast ferries (www.finnjet.com) can take you overnight. For little more than the price of a youth hostel, you get a very comfortable cabin and the feeling to be on a cruise for

a day or two (full entertainment, bars, music, movies, restaurants, and shops are on board). It's definitely worth it.

Don't consider renting a car (except maybe to see how far you can push your car on the German Autobahn), gas is very expensive (1.60\$/litre in Germany to 3.00\$/litre in the UK!) and the railway system is very extensive and efficient in Europe. As for the inter-city bus, even though it is cheaper than the train to commute between big cities, it is so uncomfortable and slow that I wouldn't recommend it to my worst enemies! My favourite mode of transportation is biking, because it allowed me to see a lot more of the "countryside" Europe and fraternize with the locals. Or just to visit a city faster than on foot and without being dependent of the local bus transportation system (and having to understand it!).

If you need advise on accommodation and places to eat and go out, I refer you to travelling guides such as the LonelyPlanet and LetsGo. For things to do, ask the other travellers you meet and they'll tell you the cool places to go (which are not museums, known attractions or tourist traps).

And to answer my original question, after graduation I am touring Canada, driving all the way across to Alaska and back. I wish to all my fellow graduating students a great time enjoying the rewards of 5+ years of hard labour at Waterloo.



Sandford Fleming Foundation
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Student Travel Grants: Available to students participating in technical conferences. Contact Prof. Robert Gorbet (ext. 3489) or further information.

Emergency Loan Funds: SFF has made available funds for short-term emergency loans, interest free for 90 days. These loans are available to engineering undergraduates, on either an academic or work term. Contact the Student Awards office for further information.

The John Fisher Award for Leadership

The John Fisher Award for Leadership is made to a graduating student who has shown outstanding leadership throughout the student's academic career in activities that relate to Engineering Education. These leadership contributions can be associated with the Engineering Society, the Departments, the Faculty and the Sandford Fleming Foundation, and with other activities with a professional orientation. Nominations for the John Fisher Award can originate from student groups, faculty members and others. Nominations should document the nominee's outstanding leadership and other contributions. The award consists of a certificate, a citation and an honorarium of \$1,000. All nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of the Foundation by April 1. Please contact the Sandford Fleming Foundation office for further details.

An organization devoted to the advancement of engineering education.

Gradball 2003



The MCs for Gradball 2003 were Amanda Klinck and Kevin Kaczmarczyk, both Mechanical Engineering students. The crowd enjoyed their facts about the disciplines. Here is a few of the highlights:

Civil Engineers “represent those students who graduate at the age of 26 and who see themselves living in a construction trailer until they are 35.”

Chemical Engineers, “are those students who have spent the last 4 years trying figuring out how to rearrange the equation, “ $PV = nRT$ ””

Electrical Engineers “are those students who in 1st year had so many co-op jobs to choose from, but by graduation, can’t find a job. I’m sure that if you ask the Civil Engineers nicely they give you a job wiring their construction trailers!”

Systems Design Engineers, “now...after this time I absolutely have no clue what it is that you guys do, the thing that I do know if that your hallway in E2 really smells bad!!”

Many thanks to the organizers:

Karen Lee (Chem)
Allan Chun (Mech)
Catherine Desloges (Enviro-Civ)
Karen Howard (Mech)
Allan Hung (Mech)
Rosie Pareja (Civil)



Pulling With heart

*Kathy Janzen
Lesley O’Hagan
3B Chemical*

Saturday, March 8th, saw more than 50 Engineers get together with all their might to pull a Grand River Transit bus from Carl Pollock Hall to Kitchener Market Square; a total of 6.7 km. This 27th Annual “Bus Push” was organized in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kitchener-Waterloo and Area.

The morning started at 10 am, when everyone met, handed in sponsorship money, feasted on Tim Horton’s donuts and collected their lime green shirts (which incidentally provided a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the long pull, not to mention made us very noticeable!). Next we assembled and were escorted by police, along with tunes provided by

KOOL FM down the parade route. We had a fantastic group out this year, always chanting and cheering and before long, the route had been completed in record time: 1 hour and 3 minutes. We returned to POETS to grab a sub provided by Subway and prizes were handed out, with the top fundraisers being Keely Mundle, Josh Levitz, Tara Phillips and Richard Benko.

This year bus push raised over \$3000 for K-W Big Brothers Big Sisters. We were rewarded for our efforts with a news clip on CKCO on Saturday and an article in the K-W Record on Monday. Special thanks goes to the participants, our corporate sponsors, prize sponsors and the bus driver for the “little extra help” she admittedly gave us on some of the tough hills!



Arts and Entertainment

Book Review: The Breast Man

Winona Tong
3A Computer

Before everyone starts cracking open their textbooks in preparation for finals, allow me to prescribe some chicken soup for your soon-to-be stressed out soul.

I have recently discovered a whimsical and insightful collection of short stories and poetry written by Andy Glasser. In his premiere published collection entitled, "The Breast Man ... and Other Writings" Glasser takes his readers on a journey through the human mind. His riveting stories are capable of transporting readers into the shoes of the narrator. There is something about Glasser's words that allow readers to immediately relate to the characters in his stories and feel what they feel. "The Breast Man" is a great book packed with a series of mini escapes from the real world – a delightful read for those in need of a short break from calculus every now and then.

From the innocent and heart-warming tale of a child's interpretation of religion in "The Loophole" to the sophisticatedly humorous "The Breast Man" (the story after which the book is named) Glasser's stories will leave you a more introspective person.

But don't just take my word for it. Below is an excerpt from The Breast Man:



...what I found to be the greatest problem was keeping the particulars of my job a secret any time I started a new relationship. I guess I should have dated one of the models; at least they already knew what I did, but that seemed like a conflict of interest to me. Besides, knowing was what turned out to be the problem, in my experience. So invariably I would hook up with a nice girl, who upon hearing that I worked for Barbie got all excited, on the account of how much she liked playing with Barbies when she was young. I would skirt the details until one day she would find out what I really did and accuse me of all manners of infidelity. And every time I started another relationship, I would worry that an old girlfriend would show up to say, "Do you know what he really does for Barbie?"

"So what exactly do you do for Barbie," Christine asked on our very first date.

"Here we go again," I thought. We almost got through a meal without having to face the monster. I heard myself saying, "I don't know why I lied," before I even did. I had tried putting it diplomatically before, and it had always turned out bad. I opened up my fortune cookie and it read, "Try something new." What the hell.

"I design their bodies, actually." I said.

"Design their bodies?"

"Yes."

"Like, their shape?"

"Their breasts." Christine seemed to be digesting it. The silence was killing me. "I mean, you know, they'll tell me Birthday Barbie's breasts should be bigger and I'll make them bigger."

Silence.

"Perkier, wider, whatever." Deep breath. "They bring in models, so I can see what they're talking about." I didn't know why I said that. I had to keep talking. "If that makes you uncomfortable, I understand."

"No, no. I mean, someone's got to, I guess," she granted, her brow frozen contemplatively. She continued, "Do you enjoy that?"

This was as far as I had ever gotten before. Every other time, it had ended in a fight before I could even get to the kinds of questions that could put me in the deep s*** that this one could. Being that this was only our first date, I shouldn't have had that much at stake, but I really liked her. I was also in a perpetual state of desire, given my job, and since as a general rule I did not sleep with models.

I caught myself looking at her breasts, as I considered my response. This made me even more nervous, as I wondered how nice it would be to model a doll after them, and I realized that I was now coveting them, despite feeling almost certain that I would never get to touch them.

Sweat was forming on my brow, and my throat felt dry as I formed my reply.

"It's just a job," I said. But what did that say about me? I started out honest. I at least wanted to finish believably. "I mean,

I am heterosexual, I guess it's better than designing Ken would be, but I'm professional about it." I looked at her eyes, which were narrow. I could tell she was thinking on the inside, like when you're trying to make sense of something you never thought of before, relating internally with your experience, to process and make sense of it for the first time. This is what most people don't do when in denial about how Barbie gets her body. I sat silently, praying for the return of denial.

"You ever have to take a cold shower afterward?"

"Well," I was taken aback. "It can be frustrating," I said with a bit of a smirk.

"I can imagine," she said and was laughing.

She was laughing.

"I've got a Barbie collection at home. You think you could show me what you do?"

"Barbies?" I stammered, "At your place?"

"Yeah," she said, and she was smiling big. I could see the smile in those eyes, which were large now, deep blue and wet. I was lost in them.

I realized that I might have to quit Barbie for this one after all. I suddenly felt like I was cheating on her, and I had absolutely no desire to continue.

This excerpt is reproduced with written permission from the author. The Breast Man is available on Amazon.com.

CD Reviews: Britney and Christina

Alyssa Clarkson
1B Arts

These days the teen pop market is falling about as fast as my motivation to complete homework assignments. This is an especially bad thing for the marketing conglomerates that control the two top "Teen Pop Princesses", Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera. With artists like Avril Lavigne and Vanessa Carlton dominating the charts, Spears and Aguilera's drawing power is slipping. These marketing forces have pushed their respective princesses into "new areas" on their latest records.

For Britney this meant an image change from the girl-next-door to writhing belly dancer. This is demonstrated on her latest album "Britney", in her video for "I'm A Slave 4 U" and subsequent videos for "Overprotected" and "Boys". Unfortunately Britney's music does not deviate much from the standard over-produced pap she's always put out. Only now she talks more about putting-out and gives a terrible example for the young girls who idolize her. Instead of venturing into new musical realms and growing as an artist, Britney is still using the same producers that wrote and created her first two albums.

Sure, Britney has some writing credits in the liner notes this time around, but the songs she co-wrote are the worst on the album. Her writing has all the maturity of the poetry I used to write in grade seven. With lines like "All things fall into place/My heart, it feels so safe/You are my melody/That's where you take me", these songs are a display of Spears' horrible writing ability and white-girl hip-hop wannabe-ism, "What you think I'm just another chick?/Lost your grip, Boy you must have tripped."

She also includes a butchered rendition of "I Love Rock and Roll" that made me want to curl up into the fetal position and cry. Not only does she ruin a great song, but her inability to sing is all the more apparent on a song that wasn't specifically written to hide her lack of singing skills. On the whole, no amount of image change or over producing is going to change the fact that Britney really doesn't have much of a singing voice at all. To put it frankly, she hasn't gotten to where she is now due to her musical genius.

Christina Aguilera's new album, "Stripped", shifts musically from pop to more of a hip-hop/R&B flavour. Collaborations abound; Redman, Lil' Kim and Alicia Keys all make guest appear-

ances on the disc. It's unfortunate the way this album has been marketed. From its title to the video for "Drrty" Stripped has been marketed as sex, sex and more sex. Listening to it however shows something different altogether. In fact, the first track, "Can't Hold Us Down" wants to be a pseudo-feminist anthem. With lyrics like, "So, what am I not supposed to have an opinion/Should I keep quiet just because I'm a woman" and "This is for my girls all around the world/Who have come across a man that don't respect your worth/Thinking all women should be seen not heard/So what do we do girls, shout louder" the song tackles sexism and double standards. It's too bad that the image Aguilera projects completely ruins any credibility this song ever had.

Aguilera's pure vocal talent, which is what her marketers should showcase, is highly overlooked in the image of this album. Songs like "Walk Away", a slow bluesy number, and "Impossible", a duet with Alicia Keys, display Aguilera's potential as a credible singer instead of the sexed up icon she is shown as in the media. These are the songs that should be released on the radio and seen on television, because they might attract people that are actually interested in Aguilera's musical talent.

That's the problem with the teen acts:

record companies depend on a fan base that is not musically interested in the artist, but infatuated their physical appearance. This creates a fickle market, which is why Britney and Christina have under gone such drastic image changes over the course of their short careers. In the beginning, teen pop was all the rage, so they made songs like "What a Girl Wants" and "(You Drive Me) Crazy". As the pop phase began to die, Britney changed her sound to a dance hall vibe, collaborating with the Neptunes on songs like "Boys". Then "Stripped" comes out and Aguilera is all about the hip hop, around the same time as people like Ashanti and Alicia Keys were topping the charts.

Now we see that girls like Avril Lavigne and Michelle Branch are the reigning champions on the female music scene. In response, Britney has hired the help of The Matrix, the same production team that produced Avril's "Let Go", for her next album. Spears and Aguilera just keep changing and conforming to whatever's the current rage. One then has to wonder how much image change the fan base can take. That's why young girls are now flocking to "real" artists like Lavigne and Branch, who write their own songs (relatively) and play their own instruments, because these girls don't change every time the fads do.

Book Review: Lone Wolf and Cub

Matt Harper

2N Computer



Would you believe me if I told you that last year's father and son gangster movie, starring Tom Hanks and Paul Newman, *Road to Perdition* was inspired by a story about a Japanese ronin, set in the Edo Period. Well, indirectly it was. In fact that movie was based on the graphic novel *Road to Perdition* written by Max Allen Collins. That graphic novel was actually based on the long-running Japanese comic book series, manga, written by Kazuo Koike and featuring art by Goseki Kojima.

This review will only cover the first two volumes of this expansive story. The entire book runs some 25 to 30 volumes, each of them around 300 pages. That's roughly about the length of the first 30 years worth of the *Uncanny X-men*. But do not think that because *Lone Wolf and Cub* shares the medium of North American super-hero comics that it shares the shallow and weak storytelling of 90 percent of those books.

Lone Wolf is introduced as Itto Ogami, an assassin with an infant son, Daigoro, who usually accompanies him into battle. The reader is not told how this samurai came to be without a master, nor how his wife perished. What quickly becomes clear is that Itto possesses the strength and skill to best any warrior in combat, or defeat several skilled combatants, even while encumbered by his infant son. Despite his apparently unstoppable presence on the battlefield, the story does not devolve into mindless violence. The story takes on an episodic formula, wherein Itto takes an assassination job and he always carries it

out to its successful conclusion. The strength in these stories comes from the ingenious and intricate plans by which Itto completes his assassinations. Remarkably, these plans often depend on Daigoro, who grows from an infant into a toddler and then a young child through volume one and two. For instance, in one story Daigoro urinates on a nobleman. Itto responds to the nobleman's demands for apology with indifference, prompting the nobleman to challenge Itto to a duel. After winning the duel and killing the noble, Itto escapes retribution from the noble's lieutenants, because they cannot dishonour their lord by taking revenge against Itto.

At the close of the first volume, Itto is faced with a difficult decision whether to commit seppuku, killing himself and his son, or embracing the *Assassin's Road*, turning away from the way of samurai in order to seek revenge against the Yagyu clan, who presumably decimated Itto's own clan. After deciding to live his life as an assassin, in search of revenge, he allows Daigoro to choose life or death, by choosing between a child's play toy or a samurai sword called a dotanuki. If Daigoro, then still a toddler, chose the toy, embracing his childhood, Itto would have killed his son,

allowing Daigoro's spirit to join his mother's. When Daigoro crawls to the dotanuki, he accepts a life of hardship on the *Assassin's Road*, a path through hell itself. Itto then sheds a tear in regret that he could not give his son the sweet release of death. This is a book with characters whose belief in the preservation of life is very different from ours. In *Lone Wolf and Cub* the reader is shown a belief system that values strength, honour and self-reliance. It is a unique experience to get inside the mind of someone who is so detached from the traditional values of community, law and religion.

The craft of *Lone Wolf and Cub* is quite simply spectacular. Kazuo Koike crafts interesting situations and twists in the unfolding saga of Itto and Daigoro. He writes believable and distinct voices for the dozens of characters, which come in and out of the story. Readers are truly treated with a depiction of the myriad people who lived in feudal Japan. The art, both penciling and inking by the late Goseki Kojima is superb. Now is a good time to note that the reprints of *Lone Wolf and Cub* available in North America are printed by Dark Horse in digest format, with pages actually a bit smaller than those Archie digests on the newsstands.

Presumably this format was selected in order to match the book as it was originally printed. Despite the small amount of available space, Kojima packed a remarkable amount of detail in. Even pages with six or seven panels do not seem too cluttered. It takes great skill to achieve this. His splash pages usually succeed at highlighting climatic moments during action sequences or establishing a new setting. The biggest complaint of his art is that Itto always seems to use the same technique when surrounded by enemy combatants, he always just swings his naginata in a circular pattern and Kojima just envelops Itto with cyclonic speed lines, with a few assorted enemy limbs flying about. I guess it is meant to be his "finishing move", but its depiction gets repetitive. On the other hand, when Itto fights with his dotanuki it is breathtaking. This guy could take out Connor McCleod without breaking a sweat.

At fifteen bucks a pop these books cost about five cents a page, not much different than a standard prose novel and a fair sight better than the 18 cents a page in a standard comic. Once one gets used to reading comics, a volume of *Lone Wolf and Cub* should take two to three hours to complete. That works out to about ten cents a minute, again not all that different than the cost of a minute at the cinema. So, if you would like to try out a great story, in a medium that incorporates a lot of the best element of novels and films, at a comparable price, check out *Lone Wolf and Cub*. You won't regret you did.

"In Lone Wolf and Cub the reader is shown a belief system that values strength, honour and self-reliance."

Oscar, Thou Art

Cindy Bao

2A Electrical



In a culture highly values individualism, I never thought it was possible to collectively summarize over five thousand members of one single organization. Well, unless it's Waterloo engineers, which really comes down to one word: beer. However, after the Academy Awards last night, I observed few traits shared by the members of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (aka AMPAS).

First of all, AMPAS practices fairness. As the members of the Academy have learned well in kindergarten, they believe the nominees should share. Despite most critics predicted that Jack Nicholson would go home with one more statue in his collection, it turned out to be Adrien Brody who got that passionate kiss from Halle Berry. It is only fair, because the star for the *Pianist* is the only nominee for the best actors who hadn't previously won. For some, the fair treatment needs patience. After being overlooked seven times, Peter O'Toole finally received an honorary

award, known to be given to aged individuals who are bitter from being unrecognized all their life.

It may sound surprising, but the award is handed out based on the nominees' appearance. The film industry is probably the industry with highest concentration of beautiful people, yet AMPAS gives appreciations to individuals who are willing to uglify themselves for their roles. Last year, while Halle Berry won the best actress for a movie in which she had the most unflattering look in her career so far, Renee Zellweger's willingness of putting on weight earned her a nomination for the same category. This year, Nicole Kidman had forgotten to thank the one thing that crowned her the best actress title — the fake nose.

There is no surprise to see Oscar is market driven. I haven't seen the winner of the best picture myself, I do not know what the hype of *Chicago* is all about. Nonetheless, I realized there is such hype, marked by a \$134 million domestic box

office. As well, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, adapted from Nia Vardalos' one-woman stage show, received a nomination for the original screenplay. Does the Academy have nowhere else to put this highest-grossing independent film of all time?

Although called the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, all its members suffer from technophobia. It is known that sci-fi and fantasy movies hardly ever make the best picture. When collision occurs, technophobia overrules the box office. Nominated twice in a row, the first two installments of the *Lord of the Ring* trilogy, after each grossed over \$300 million, did not make to the *Promised Land*. Nor did *Gollum* make into best supporting actor category. After a total of 19 nominations for the past two years, there are only a handful of technical awards. Although I must say that *The Two Towers* this year did very well, judging it didn't have a director.

Last but not least, AMPAS is tolerating. Nobody foresaw Roman Polanski, while in

exile for statutory rape, beating the more favored Rob Marshall for this year's best director. Making political statement in your acceptance speech doesn't seem to matter either, whether it's Chris Cooper's elegant wish for peace, or Adrien Brody sincere prayer for a "peaceful and swift resolution". Michael Moore, the director for best documentary, *Bowling for Columbine*, made a jaw-dropping speech "We are against this war, Mr. Bush. Shame on you, Mr. Bush. Shame on you." It was cheered, booed and frowned, yet according to the organizers of show, winners earned the time to say whatever they liked, because the Academy "really, really like[s]" them.

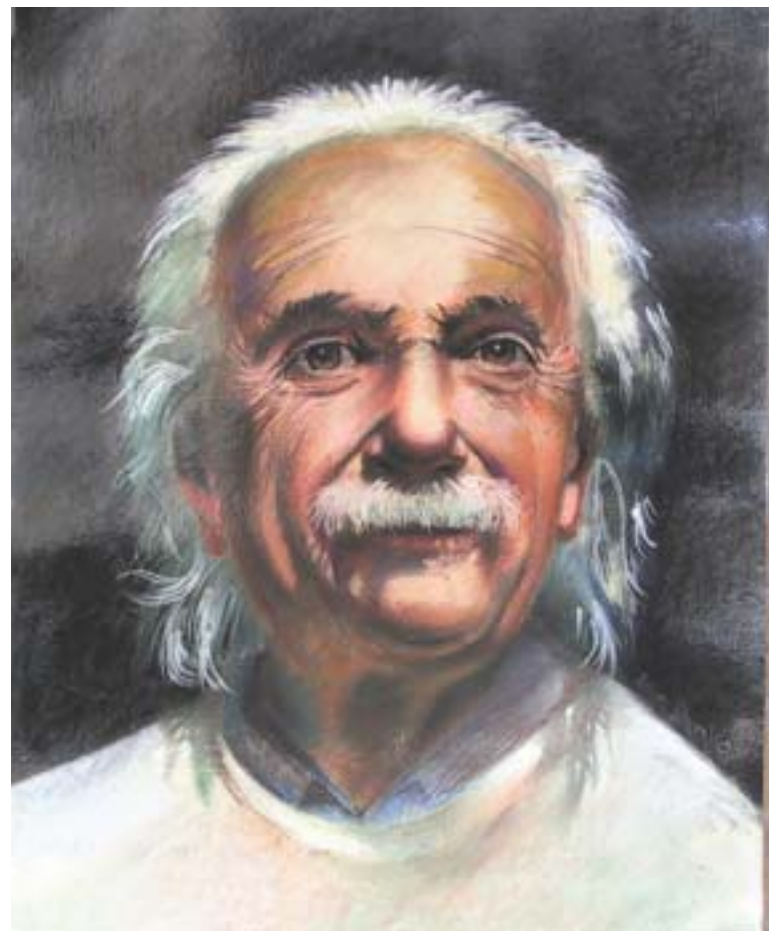
Every year, you will hear people complain about Oscar, whether it's about the fashion or the host, the actual award outcomes or the winners' acceptance speech. Yet, the exact same people never fail to sit in front of their little screen every March. Here's Oscar for you, disappointing (okay, less so this year without Joanne River's red carpet interview) and addictive. On the last note, there will be no TV show to look forward to until next March.

Arts Contest Results



First place in Scenic Photography was Wendy Krkosek's "Clouds and Water" (top), Richard Benko's work (top right) earned first place in the Portrait Photography category while Tina Do's "Self Portrait" (bottom) won first in Black and White Sketches. "Einstein" (bottom

right) done by Allen Shun won first in Colour Paintings/Drawings and the "POETS Door" done by Garrett Smitt (not shown) won first in Sculptures and Installation Art.



Other submissions included "Firehands" by Rahul Bhardwaj (left) and Graham Finch's "Mountains" (right), both of which earned honourable mentions.

Not shown here are Nick Cristello's "Sword" and Stephen Orlando's "Newspaper"



Movie Review: Robin Williams' Dark Trilogy

Joseph Fung
3N Computer

Known for his upbeat hilarious antics, Robin Williams took a break from his traditional rolls to film what he's calling his "Dark Trilogy". Demonstrating his versatility as an actor, Williams has churned out three films that land somewhere between "very good" and "excellent" – Death to Smoochy, Insomnia and One Hour Photo.

In Danny DeVito's latest deranged work Death to Smoochy, Williams plays Rainbow Randolph, an immoral children's show host who's downwards spiral is contrasted with the rocketing fame of his replacement – a fuchsia rhinoceros named Smoochy (played by Edward Norton). The insane, embittered Randolph forms plot after plot to defame, disparage and bring down the cheerful replacement.

Surrounding and reinforcing Williams' dynamic screen presence is a recognizable cast including Danny DeVito, Edward Norton, Catherine Keener and Jon Stewart. Together they've managed to

produce a very sinister, very amusing look at life. DeVito portrays the serious subjects of a psychological breakdown, murder, fraud, coercion and bribery in a very unsentimental light.

The largest testament to this work, however, is that I watched this movie three times, and enjoyed it and laughed at it just as much each time.

Later last year Robin Williams paired up with Al Pacino to do the story of a calculating psychotic killer in Alaska. The story revolves around the 24 hour Alaskan summer day and its effect on Los Angeles police detective Will Dormer.

Taken on its own, Insomnia is an engrossing suspenseful film that respects the audience's ability to think. It does, however, lack the gripping fascination generated by director Christopher Nolan's preceding work Memento. Additionally, as done in many remakes, Nolan went for a more main-stream ending rather than repeating the darker ending to the 1997 original.

Nolan did, however, capitalize on the scenery - two of the most memorable scenes in the movie make good use of the

Alaskan landscape. The opening sequence of this picture is an extended fly-by look at the barren, jagged ice and mountains as a small plane brings the detectives from L.A. The second scene worth mentioning is an exciting chase through the fog where Dormer ends up accidentally shooting his partner.

If you haven't seen the earlier version of Insomnia, the remake is definitely worth seeing. It's intelligent, well-shot and superbly acted.

The last and most recent in Williams' Dark Trilogy is One Hour Photo – the story of a lonely, unbalanced technician at a SavMart photo-development lab. Sy Parris's (Robin Williams) loneliness leads him to covet Nina Yorkin, one of his regular customers. His obsession leads to stalking and to taking personal offence at the unfaithful activities of Nina's husband.

The set for this movie is perfect. SavMart is a sterile, unwelcoming behemoth full of aisle upon aisle of racked merchandise – a perfect place for a reclusive lunatic to hide, and a perfect Wal-Mart knock off.

The most impressive feature, however, is

Williams' acting. In Death to Smoochy, Williams was playing a role similar to his previous roles – manic and extreme. In Insomnia, Williams merely needed to be composed. In One Hour Photo though, he plays a quiet, obsessive introvert – no small feat for such a dynamic actor. His portrayal of Sy combined with his short bleached-white hair makes the character all the more disturbing.

One Hour Photo is a slow picture, but if you're able to pay attention, it is a disturbingly interesting look into a twisted, although essentially decent loner.

When looking at all three of the films together, although each is worthy of praise on its own, these movies are far from "dark". If they are meant to show the versatility of Williams' acting – they achieve it; if they are meant to be truly dark, they do not.

I recommend you see all three of these movies – just not together. Take them each as a single production and try to ignore the "Dark Trilogy" moniker entirely.

Holding Your Own

Tim Tang
2A Electrical

So close. So many times, when things look like they are finally within reach of possibility, I lose grip just like that. Or when the wind is finally changing, my sail catches fire from air friction.

So many times....again and again.

No, that won't get to me...

But how can I compare with someone who scores over a hundred on midterms, or those who have more "Top 10" lists than Letterman?

No, there's still a chance...

But how much harder must I push myself to keep up? I ran on empty tanks a long time ago. It's such a routine now. I do more business with local vending machines than Tim Hortons because Grandpa Hortons can't keep up.

No, I must press on...

But why am I so stubborn to see that I can never perform as well as the one next to me? Why am I so reluctant to accept? Just throw in the towel and call it quits man, head over to POETS, watch movies from noon to five, hit the REV, or take a lady friend to Dooley's on ladies night...whatever helps to sooth the pain.

No, I won't do that...

...because of that house I want to buy for my parents, or that Boxster which just flew by, or to see the final seconds of IRS countdown, or to see my work bring a smile to a little child or someone I care about, or to finally meet that special girl I feel so passionate and alive about, and to make her understand how I feel.

I am here to better...

But right now, it seems like everything is falling apart, water is filling the decks below, the drums of war beating around me, and my sail is hanging by a single thread of perseverance. All my hardships are overpowering me with pressing odds.

I won't stand down...

I will decide when I am done. And before I am done, I won't ease up. I want to know I know something when I am done here. I must get that bare minimum for that graduate school, that honour, or that recognition. Everything. Everything I ever wanted. I don't care where I am accepted to, where I must go, or the hours I must put in.

But how could I not turn bitter, having just lost a friend, having family issues overseas, turning down friends on Fridays and weekends, and to not remember the last time that I took a night off for myself? Or knowing that the best I could do when I aim for 70 is 69.8. Despite my best efforts, it isn't worth a damn dime. More and more doubt with every waking moment.

No, I will endure it...

But do I have what it takes? What kind of man am I? Am I the one who bitches about being assigned the messed up station, the one who envies the better "tools" others are using, the one who bothers lab instructors over minus-ones, rather than understanding, the one who curses the professor who won't remark because "it's not in pen", the one who criticizes people as objects, or the one who sues the school for taking away the liquor licence?

No, I am better...even when the system labels me as only knowing half the information...

But even if I could hypothetically do it, is it worth it? All those late nights in the library and in the laboratory finding out that "learning by osmosis" is actually true,

but losing touch with the people I care about. Don't you think I would trade all this for all that I know is right if everything in my life was going as well as the person in the next row?

Yes, it's damn worth it.

It may be that I have never won, but this time it will be different, because I will build a ladder to reach my last, still hanging sail, spray fireproof coatings on it, and

have my one bucket of water ready.

I will turn up my tunes over yours, I will not be corrupted, I will do everything the way I know is right, I will do my best to turn my promises into reality, and I will prove it like a theorem.

You can't touch me and I am standing my ground.

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